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future

Warning of 'social upheaval'

Tebbit hits at 'U-turn' on Hong Kong

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

MR NORMAN Tebbit last night accused the Government of breaking its election commitments on immigration and said its plans to bring stability to Hong Kong by granting passports to 50,000 families would fail.

The Conservatives had made successive pledges to tighten immigration because "these islands of ours are already overcrowded, and the belief that great waves of immigration by people who do not share our culture, language, rules of social conduct and, in many cases, owe no allegiance to our country was a destabilizing factor in society."

"If we are not to see social upheaval arising from religious, cultural and ethnic differences, we have more than enough to do with integrating existing communities into British society than by adding to that burden or exacerbating existing problems."

Leading one of the biggest Conservative revolts since Mrs Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979, Mr Tebbit said he and others were being forced to choose between the Government on the one hand, and their party's commitment to those who elected it on the other.

That was why he voted to vote against the proposed Bill for the first time in 20 years in the Commons and "stand by my commitment to the elec-

tion which I made in 1987". Mr Tebbit's speech during the second reading debate of the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill was cheered by fellow rebels but drew protests from government supporters.

He said it was clear that the Chinese regarded the Bill as incompatible with the spirit if not letter of the accord under which Hong Kong will revert to Chinese rule in 1997. They have no use with the concept of dual loyalties and would discriminate against the holders of those passports.

The Hong Kong Chinese knew that and for them the British passport was an inducement not to stay beyond 1997, but to take a new life in Britain or elsewhere.

The sooner passports were issued, the sooner 50,000 heads of family would leave, he said.

Would the Government then be asking to provide for another 50,000 so that the "second eleven" could be kept in position in Hong Kong?

Earlier, Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, faced frequent interruptions as he said the Government's proposals were the only effective way of restoring confidence and maintaining prosperity in the colony.

Quite apart from what most might regard as a moral duty to maintain the stability of Hong Kong up to 1997, Britain had an enormous stake in the success of the colony.

Labour did not intend "to play the numbers game", but certain groups of people would be offered immediate entry to Britain. "The next Labour Government will pursue the path towards democracy at the speed that was always asked for by the people of Hong Kong and was once offered to the people of Hong Kong by the Government."

Labour would apply its own policy of nationality and immigration and there were certain categories of Hong Kong residents who would immediately qualify for entry into this country.

The non-ethnic Chinese, mostly East African Asians who took refuge in Hong Kong and who would be states in 1997, would be allowed in, and time spent by students would make up part of the footstep of the mass media" for "noticeably stepping up a propaganda campaign" and "inadmissible interference" in Soviet domestic affairs.

Labour would also grant citizenship to public servants who had worked abroad in colonial administrations and to others in particular need.

"This Bill is intended to disband the most vocal and influential minority and therefore make it easier for the Government to follow that craven course."

Mr Edward Heath backed the Bill, and there was no just or practical solution in a scheme that offered a special escape route to a favoured and

Britain £1bn better off

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr John Major, yesterday revealed that the Government was £1 billion better off in the last financial year than he thought at the time of the Budget last month. He expected a surplus of about £7 billion for 1989-90, but it turned out to be £8 billion. The surplus, which compares with a figure of £14.5 billion last year, will be used to pay off some of the national debt.

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Agents clamp

State agents who dishonestly give wrong descriptions of properties will be banned from practising under legislation to be introduced by the end of the year.

Page 2

Children killed

Four boys were killed when police opened fire on a demonstration in black South African township, and extremist Afrikaners, who admitted the theft of advanced weapons, said these would be used against the African National Congress.

Page 10

Mind finalists

The full list of finalists in the individual and schools sections of The Times Tournament of the Mind competition appears on

Page 18

Write-off threat

The financial services group British & Commonwealth could be forced to write off another £200 million on Atlantic Computers, its computer leasing subsidiary, in addition to £550 million provisions already made.

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Liverpool back

The way was cleared in Malta for Liverpool to return to European football at the same time as other English clubs are expected to be re-admitted.

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Baron Michael de Stempel, found guilty of plotting to steal from Lady Illingworth, leaving court in Birmingham yesterday. Report, page 3

US seeks united stance on Lithuania

From Anatol Lieven
in Vilnius and
Our Foreign Staff

AS THE Soviet Union increased pressure on Lithuania with heavy cuts in gas supplies yesterday, the West co-ordinated its response and Moscow attempted to buy off an expected Latvian declaration of independence.

While Britain appeared uncertain about how to react, an indication of growing tension between Moscow and Washington over Lithuania came in a Soviet Foreign Ministry statement which condemned "individual politicians and public figures following in the footsteps of the mass media"

for "noticeably stepping up a propaganda campaign" and "inadmissible interference" in Soviet domestic affairs.

It accused the "initiators and participants in the campaign" of "taking aim at the peaceful revolution unfolding across the Soviet Union".

They should understand that "the acute situation caused by extremist elements in the Lithuanian leadership cannot be defused in this way".

President Bush has begun consulting allied leaders about appropriate responses to the Soviet moves against Lithuania. He spoke to President Mitterrand of France yesterday and to Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, on Wednesday, but Mr Marin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, played down the prospect of joint NATO or Western action.

The US approach is that Washington would rather not see it as "the Lithuanian crisis". Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, has begun a careful programme of preparing American public opinion for a policy of preferring Soviet reform to Baltic aspiration.

In Oslo, Mrs Kazimiera Pranskienė, the Lithuanian Prime Minister, found the moral support she sought when the Norwegian Government called in Mr Aleksandr Teterin, the Soviet Ambassador, and delivered a formal protest at Moscow's actions.

Both she and her Foreign

Continued on page 22, col 3

Paris-Bonn challenge to Thatcher on EC unity

By Philip Jacobson in Paris, and Philip Webster in London

IN A clear challenge to Mrs Thatcher, France and West Germany yesterday declared their intention to push for political as well as economic union by January 1, 1993.

For her part, the Prime Minister is now prepared to take Britain into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System before the next election, according to Cabinet sources.

In a joint statement the French and German leaders said: "We think the moment has arrived to transform the whole relationship between member states (of the EC) into a European union, and to provide the means for taking the necessary actions."

The uncompromising message, calling for the issue to put on the agenda of the Dublin summit on Saturday week, was sent jointly by President Mitterrand and Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, to Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, in his capacity as EC president.

Cabinet sources say the Prime Minister has convinced

her close Cabinet colleagues that after a long period of resistance to entry, she accepts that the conditions she has set for entry to the exchange rate mechanism will be met.

Entry could come sooner than has so far been assumed because of the way the Government decides to compare Britain's inflation rate with that of its European partners when it considers joining.

Reducing the level of inflation to around that of the rest of the Community is the key condition for joining. The Government is almost certain to exclude the mortgage rate and the impact of the community charge from the calculation it uses to assess the underlying rate of inflation in Britain.

The timing of the Franco-German declaration for the very day on which Mitterrand was meeting President Bush in Florida suggests that France took the lead in throwing down the gauntlet to the British Government.

The joint statement is also intended to signal that France and West Germany are back

working together as the powerhouses of the Community. As the Elysee Palace sees it, enlisting Herr Kohl's crucial support on an issue over which France has always made the running effectively repairs any damage their special relationship suffered when the question of a united Germany's border with Poland was causing difficulties.

The content of yesterday's message to Mr Haughey reflects quite strikingly the language that Mitterrand has been using recently in outlining his concept of "the European confederation". It is no secret that he believes that swifter integration on all fronts within the EC is the only possible response to the challenge of change in Eastern Europe.

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Court fight on Twyford Down route

By Michael McCarthy
Environment Correspondent

THE decision by Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, to drive the final section of the M3 through Twyford Down in Hampshire, one of the most heavily protected landscapes in England, is to be challenged in the High Court next week.

Local campaigners are to seek leave for a judicial review of the controversial decision. It involves carving a cutting 400ft wide and 100ft deep, through the downland, which has five separate landscape protection designations.

Members of the Winchester Joint Action Group have been told there are good grounds for believing that Mr Parkinson's granting permission for the motorway to go through the downland, after a 19-year battle, may be flawed in law. It is understood that a key factor may be a confidential Department of Transport report, commissioned last year, into the possibility that the motorway may need eight lanes instead of the six presently planned, to accommodate future traffic loads.

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a. 4% interest.

b. 9% interest.

which would you
prefer on your
current account?
(bit of a stupid
question really.)

US team ready for hostage release

From Martin Fletcher, Washington, and
Juan Carlos Guimaraes, west Beirut

THE Bush Administration made preparations for the imminent release of an American hostage from Lebanon yesterday as US expectations rose.

The White House said diplomatic communications from Syria had lent credence to Wednesday's message from the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine that one of three US hostages would be freed within 48 hours. And in Beirut, a source close to the Syrians told *The Times* that the release could take place at "any moment".

Escorted by Syrian security forces, the released hostage would then be driven to Damascus and handed over to American diplomats in a symbolic ceremony aimed at underlining the role of Pres-

dent Assad of Syria in the resolution of the crisis.

A US hostage reception team has been sent to an American military base at Wiesbaden, West Germany, which has received previous US hostages, and Mr Edward Djerejian, US Ambassador to Syria, has returned to Bonn.

But prospects for a smooth

release have been complicated

by the intensification of

violence between Amal and

Hezbollah, the Shia Muslim

allies of Syria and Iran, respectively.

Although it was not clear who would be freed, militia sources said they expected to see Mr Robert Polhill, an academic seized in 1987.

Uphill fight, page 10

Uphill fight, page 10

Dick Tracy taking on the bats and turtles

From Charles Bresnan
New York

TODAY is T-day minus 55 in America. The feds, factories are working overtime, the department stores are readying their boutiques, the market for wrist radios is hotting up and the advertisements are everywhere.

Dick Tracy, the film, is on its way. For anyone who thought *Ninja Turtles* and *Batman* provided quite enough marketed mania for this century, this will not be welcome news. By June 15, when the cinema projections finally flicker into life to reveal Warren Beatty and Madonna as the eponymous comic-strip detective and Breathless Mahoney, his floozy, nary a citizen of the United States will be left untouched.

With the Hollywood financial stakes catapulting into the stratosphere, the Walt Disney company and Beatty, who

is producer-director as well as star, have thrown their heaviest artillery into a marketing operation aimed at beating the \$250 million (£153 million) so far earned by *Batman*.

Disney, which has already spent about \$30 million, hopes the film will be a "tent-pole" — in Hollywood parlance a blockbuster that earns so much it will provide enough money to support a stream of lesser releases.

A decade in the making, *Dick Tracy* follows the now familiar path of bringing a stylized comic-strip hero to the screen, complete with its own ready-made conventions and insider jokes.

Where *Batman* was staged in half-light and menacing gloom, the gimmick this time hinges on a palette of primary colours. Everything, from costumes to the make-believe Chicago of the late 1930s sticks as closely as possible to the yellow, black and red world of the newspaper strip.

The experts of Madison Avenue believe that, after the ambiguities of the 1980s, consumers are ripe for the simple moral world inhabited by private eyes, beautiful dames and classic bad guys with names like Itchy and Mumbles and Big Boy (played by Al Pacino).

"There is the notion that decency is becoming more prevalent and that greed isn't cut any more," said Mr Peter Kim, consumer behaviour director for J. Walter Thompson USA.

"It's not fancy and it's not subtle." Beatty, aged 52, concedes in something of an understatement. For him, success will redeem him from the status of ageing Lothario and rescue his career from the near oblivion inflicted three years ago by *Ishzar*, his last film and one of Hollywood's biggest disasters.

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Estate agents face ban over dishonest descriptions

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

ESTATE agents who act dishonestly or unethically by wrongly describing properties or failing to disclose personal interests could be banned under measures announced yesterday by Mr Eric Forth, Minister for Consumer Affairs.

Other practices such as pressuring home buyers into using financial services and falsely claiming that higher bids exist for a house will also lead to a ban under new orders within the Estate Agents Act, 1979 which Mr Forth intends to introduce. He said the tougher

penalties against unscrupulous agents should be in place by the end of the year.

The Minister's proposals, announced in the House of Commons, are in line with the recommendations of the Director General of Fair Trading, Sir Gordon Borrie, who reported last month on the estate agency industry after two years of government scrutiny.

Both he and the minister had wanted the industry to agree on a voluntary code of practice, but this had not been achieved. "I have noted with regret the director general's conclusion that there is little prospect of agreement in the

immediate future on an industry-wide code of practice," Mr Forth said. "However, I consider that the package of legislation I proposed deals with the main problems. It should deal effectively with the malpractices identified among a minority of estate agents, while not imposing significant burdens on reputable agents."

The changes to the Estate Agents Act, which can be implemented comparatively quickly, will include the requirement for agents to spell out the terms of their contract with a vendor. Mr Forth also intends to extend the Trade Descriptions Act, 1968, to cover wrong descriptions of property. That needs new legisla-

tion, which would be introduced "when time allows".

Both Mr Forth and Sir Gordon called for estate agents' bodies for the introduction of a test of competence. Mr Forth told a press conference yesterday that he believed the main problem was of ethics and honesty, not competence. "We believe it is unnecessary and undesirable to bring in a test of competence because it provides a barrier against entry into the industry and would require some sort of bureaucracy."

Mr Forth said his department continued to receive a steady flow of complaints about estate agents, now running at between five and

10 a week, far fewer than in the property boom of two years ago. Ninety-nine agents have been banned since the introduction of the Estate Agents Act in 1979.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors last night welcomed the announcement. Commenting on the measure which will subject estate agents to the Trade Descriptions Act, it said, "It is indefensible that until now this has not been the case."

The institution remained convinced of the need for a statutory code of conduct that would bind all practising agents through licensing and a minimum standard of competence. "A voluntary code of

practice would not have encompassed those fringe operators who are not members of any recognized professional body or organization."

Mr Trevor Kent, president of the National Association of Estate Agents, said: "We are happy with the balance of control of our business and consumer protection and we believe the public will be better protected by these proposals."

He emphasized his concern at the absence of a test of competence, which left the 20 per cent of agents who do not belong to the professional bodies able to carry on without qualifications.

Colliery closure signals end of era

By Tim Jones
Employment Affairs Correspondent

MORE than 600 miners in the South Wales coalfield learned yesterday they had lost the battle to save their pit and accused British Coal of betraying their community.

Angry miners considered the closure of Blaenavon colliery, near Neath, as virtually the end of an industry in the area which had once fuelled the British Empire.

The closure of the colliery, which has lost more than £3m in the past 12 months, signals the end of an era for a community that spearheaded an industrial revolution based on the premise that coal was king.

Now, there are only 3,100 miners working five pits in South Wales, while Japanese companies, now established in the area, employ more than 7,000 workers in electronic assembly jobs.

Japanese is being taught in Welsh schools and mines have been turned into museums as, in the words of the Welsh comedian Max Boyce, the "pit-head baths are supermarkets now".

Once, the region, a spawning ground of deep-rooted socialism, had more than 250,000 miners. Before the end of the year-long miners' strike, in 1985, 22,000 men were still employed in 28 collieries in South Wales.

Yesterday, Mr Terence Wheatley, British Coal's South Wales group director, said the decision to close the pit was no reflection on the miners who had worked hard, worsened geology, he said, had led to the losses.

"Output at Blaenavon has fallen to well below half its required level because of the geology and has no prospect of consistently matching its break-even targets of 15,000 tonnes a week," he said.

Paying tribute to the miners who had tried to save the pit, a mainstay of the local economy, Mr Wheatley added: "These circumstances can only be regretted at a colliery where team effort has been frequently unsparing, but they give no hope for recovery."

Mr Phil Bowen, the National Union of Mineworkers' local lodge secretary at Blaenavon, who has worked for 25 years at the pit, said: "The men are gutted and have no faith in British Coal to do a proper job. There are many years of valuable coal reserves but the board is just not interested in exploiting them for the nation."

Mr Donald Coleman, the local Labour MP, accused British Coal of persisting a policy of closing deep mines without regard to the social consequences. "They have betrayed the people," he said.

Although there will be no compulsory redundancies when the pit closes, most of the men are expected to opt for British Coal's improved redundancy terms that offer lump sums of up to £37,000 for long-serving miners.

A spokesman for Neath Borough Council said the closure was a "bitter blow" and justified the wisdom of its decision to develop a business park.

Mr Cedwyn James, the chairman of Neath's industry and development committee, said: "It is indeed a bitter pill to swallow and will have a marked effect on the community."

Japanese college, page 19

Teachers' strike over jobs could start next week

By Douglas Brown, Education Reporter

THE first strikes in schools over plans to make teachers redundant could begin next week, the leader of Britain's second largest teachers' union said yesterday.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, was speaking after the union's annual conference in Scarborough had voted unanimously to strike if teachers' jobs were threatened.

The delegates, representing 118,000 teachers, did not go as far, however, as the larger National Union of Teachers, whose conference voted earlier in the week to stage national strikes despite warnings from its leaders that such a course would be illegal.

Mr de Gruchy said he could

New attack by bogus officials

DETECTIVES hunting a couple who pose as health workers then indecently assault young children have switched their hunt from Yorkshire to the South-west after a girl aged three and a half and a three-week-old baby were assaulted (Adam Frezzo writes).

The pair called at a house in Taunton on Tuesday, finding the children undressed and ready for bed. They told the parents to wait in another room while they carried out a "medical examination".

Earlier in the week, officers carried out door-to-door inquiries after a couple were reported stalking the streets in Pawlett, Somerset.

Reforms wait

The curriculum reforms in Northern Ireland's schools are to be delayed until 1992 to take pressure off teachers. Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Ulster education minister, said yesterday. It will not want to overburden schools with "an unacceptable pace of change".

Strike ballot

A further 15,000 power workers yesterday rejected an 8.5 per cent pay offer and signalled their willingness to strike. The GMB union decision comes after the electricians' vote in favour of a strike. The unions' national officers will consider the ballot results today.

Police action

Three police officers — Inspector Derek Watts, Sergeant Colin Langstone and Police Constable Nigel Parlane — are to apply to the High Court to overturn a magistrate's ruling that they should face criminal proceedings on charges connected with the 1987 Wapping industrial dispute.

Flights halted

British Airways has cancelled seven flights to Paris today because of a 24-hour air traffic controllers' strike in France. Air France is aiming to run four flights from Heathrow, but dropped 14 services from other London airports.

Ministry bomb

A MAN was seriously hurt yesterday when a mortar bomb exploded at an historical arms collection in Nottingham. The explosion took place at the Ministry of Defence's Pattern Room at the Chilwell Royal Ordnance Depot. The collection is centuries old. An internal inquiry has begun.

Dane chess lead

Bent Larsen, the Danish grandmaster, is leading the field after two rounds in the Watson Farley and Williams Grandmaster chess tournament in the City of London. He survived a fierce attack from Daniel King, the London grandmaster, in the all-play-all grandmaster event.

not exclude the possibility that this summer's GCSE and A level examinations would be affected in schools where teachers went on strike.

The NAS/UWT estimates that 15,000 of the 400,000 teachers in England and Wales could lose their jobs as governors struggle to balance the books with new school budgets based on pupil numbers.

The Government has insisted that the element in the budget for teachers' salaries must be based on the average in the area rather than on the actual cost to individual schools.

As a result, schools with large numbers of experienced staff at the top of the pay scales will not have enough money to pay them all.

Ministers argue that the process exposes schools to the "economic realities of life" but Mr de Gruchy said it was "perverse and doctrinaire".

He called on school governors to resign rather than being "forced into acting as the Government's hatchet people".

He said the union expected the first confrontations to be in Nottinghamshire, where 50 schools have announced that they plan to cut 185 jobs.

Mr de Gruchy said that the union would use its £5 million strike fund to support one-day "warning strikes" which could be followed up by all-out stoppages if the NUT and other unions were prepared to join in.

"We will not hesitate to use strike action if the jobs of our members are threatened," he said, "but we have got to think carefully about our strategy."

Mr Ian Crossland, from Walsall, West Midlands, said: "For the sake of our children education must be the best possible, and not just the 'cheapest'."

Delegates taken ill

ABOUT a hundred delegates to the National Union of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers conference have been affected by an outbreak of food poisoning, prompting the general secretary, Mr Nigel de Gruchy, to call in environmental health officials.

Most of the victims were staying at the four-star Royal Hotel, although delegates staying at other hotels were also taken ill, and the search for the cause was continuing yesterday.

All of the union's national executive members and foreign guests were staying at the Royal, yesterday's conference session was marked by frequent exits from the platform.

Mr de Gruchy said: "Everyone seems to be going down with it, but the conference must go on." One union official, however, argued that the outbreak was having one beneficial effect: "It certainly seems to have cut the length of some of the speeches."

More nurseries to get tax exemption

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

MORE nurseries places are to qualify for exemption from taxation when employers subsidise them for the children of employees. Most are large companies such as Midland Bank and Sainsbury.

Midland Bank plans to have 300 in operation within four years. The bank's crèches, which typically charge employees about half the £70 to £80 a week a place costs, qualify for the tax exemption. But many of those places provided at nurseries by smaller companies would have fallen outside the exemption announced in the Budget.

The extension means that employers will have to play an active role in the management of a nursery, but it will open the way to many more nurseries being set up in the coming months.

An inland Revenue spokesman said: "The employer would have to take responsibility for the workplace nursery at which it provides places and should have a member on the management committee of the nursery. The care of the children can be sub-contracted and the premises can be provided by the nursery or another employer."

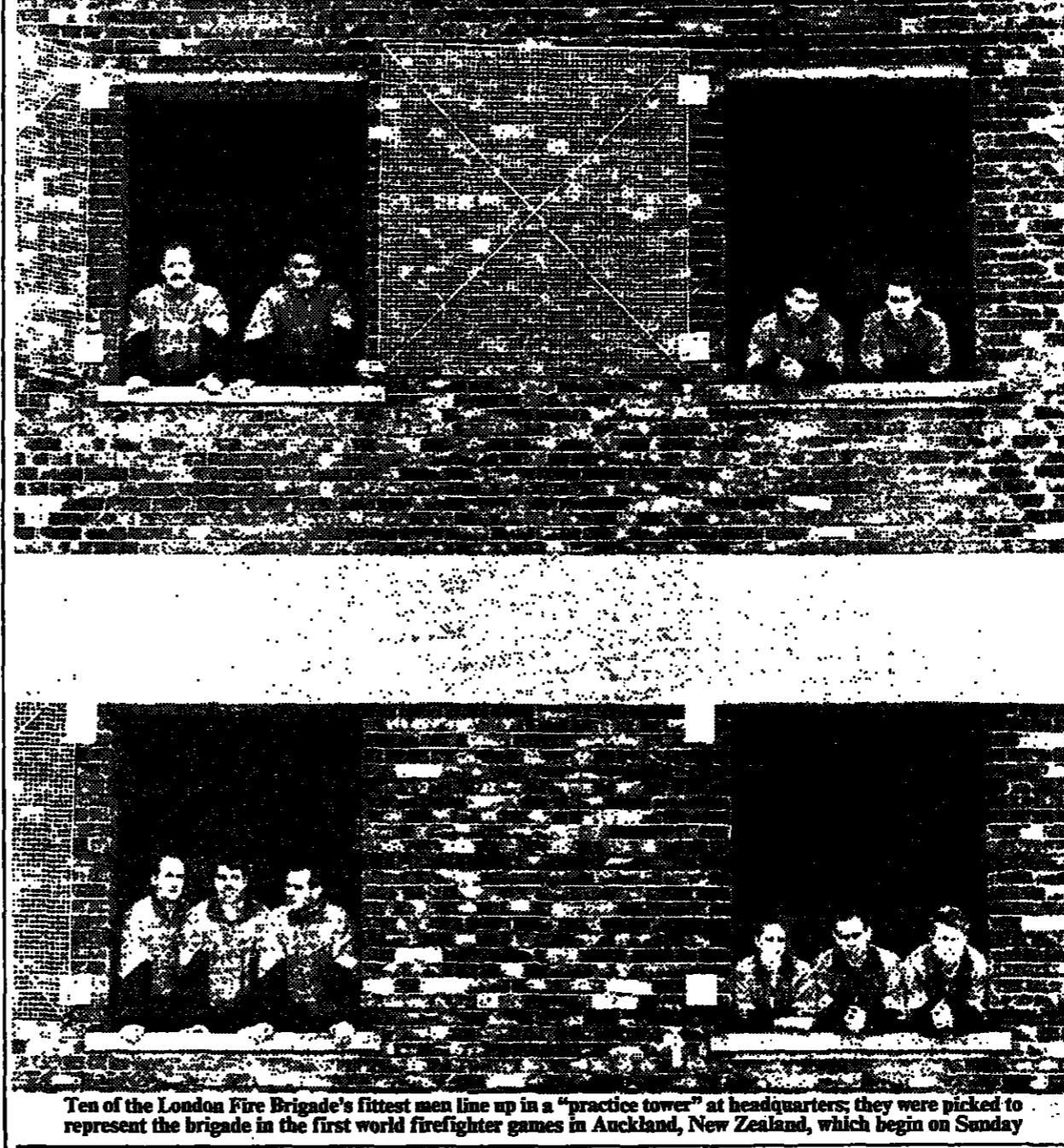
It could be freehold, leasehold or a half-hired on licence, but it cannot be domestic premises."

The Bill states that where joint participants are involved, there should be shared responsibility for management and finance.

It is estimated by the organization Working for Childcare that only 120 employers run crèches, providing about 3,000 places for the children

Warming up for firefighters' games

ADRIAN BROOKS



Ten of the London Fire Brigade's fittest men line up in a "practice tower" at headquarters: they were picked to represent the brigade in the first world firefighter games in Auckland, New Zealand, which begin on Sunday

Governor says Strangeways has accounted for all its prisoners

By Ronald Faux

ALL the 1,648 inmates who were in Strangeways prison on April 1, when the worst riot in British prison history began, are accounted for, Mr Brendan O'Friel, the prison governor, said yesterday.

He said that not until prison staff had made a careful search of the building would he be able to put his hand on his heart and say "there are no bodies"; but all the evidence suggested that everyone had been accounted for, including the seven men still in the prison building.

Throughout the siege, now in its 20th day, Mr O'Friel has admitted that there might be a body or bodies among the jail which he hoped the prisoners

remanded for sexual offences, who died in hospital from head injuries.

Mr O'Friel would not comment on how the stories of bodies and executions gained currency. He repeated that the strategy of negotiation and pressure on the remaining inmates would continue.

It had always been clear that the last handful would be more difficult, but there was no reason to change the strategy and tactics.

Water would continue to be used against the prisoners. In spite of their acts of bravado, this was unpopular with them and an effective way of reducing their stocks and supplies. Things were not as nice, he

said, as the prisoners would like to present them.

Overcrowding was blamed last night for a jail breakout which went unnoticed until police started to round up prisoners on the run (Michael Hornsby writes).

Seven men broke out of a workshop at Gloucester prison that had been converted into a temporary dormitory, but only one was still free last night.

An inquiry into the incident was launched by Mr John Aldridge, governor of the prison which now holds 140 more inmates than its official capacity of 190.

The governor said that the authorities had received some tape recordings from relatives of prisoners still in the jail which he hoped the prisoners

had been able to listen to. The messages are understood to contain appeals to the men to give themselves up.

Mr O'Friel said peaceful persuasion would remain the main tactic, but other options had not been ruled out. He believed that the men could be persuaded to come down. The siege, he said, might collapse soon or continue for some days.

Water would continue to be used against the prisoners. In spite of their acts of bravado, this was unpopular with them and an effective way of reducing their stocks and supplies. Things were not as nice, he

said, as the prisoners would like to present them.

Corrigan, who lived in Railway Street, Armagh, is the 21st person to die in the troubles this year. His father, Peter Corrigan, was shot dead by "Loyalist" gunmen in the town in 1982.

Martin Corrigan's involvement in what appears to have been an attempt to kill the police reservist comes after two IRA killings of policemen in the Kinnego district outside Armagh.

A big security operation continued yesterday throughout the rural Lisnaske Road area of Kinnego as police announced that they had arrested a man who was being questioned in connection with the incident. Police also put on display

market, and Astra refused to support PRB any longer. Mr Chris Gumbley, former head of Astra, was rumoured to have met Gerald Bull a day before he was murdered.

• More than 24 hours after Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, confirmed the Iraqi "oil pipes" were gun components, the Government had still not expressed its displeasure to Baghdad yesterday (Andrew McEwan writes).

The big Belgian holding company Société Générale de Belgique indicated it might help the company financially.

Astra bought PRB for £1 million, and assumed debts of almost three times as much. The company lost money last year, in a general decline in the international arms and munitions

market, and Astra refused to support PRB any longer. Mr Chris Gumbley, former head of Astra, was rumoured to have met Gerald Bull a day before he was murdered.

• The ANC denied the claim made by the Conservative MP to repeat outside the Commons an allegation that two of its members had met a leader of the Provisional IRA (Richard Ford writes).

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Baron is guilty of plot to strip old woman of wealth

By Craig Seton

BARON Michael de Stempel was found guilty last night of conspiring to steal from Lady Illingworth, the widow of a former Conservative Postmaster General who was robbed of £500,000 and died penniless in a council old people's home.

Birmingham Crown Court has been told that the Baron's former wife, Susan, aged 55, has admitted five charges of stealing from Lady Illingworth, her aunt, and two of forgery.

The jury has still to reach verdicts on charges of conspiracy to steal from Lady Illingworth against Marcus and Sophie Wilberforce, the Baroness's children from a previous marriage.

The jury had already spent one night in a hotel considering its verdict and will return to court this morning.

Baron de Stempel, aged 60, a financial adviser from Crossfield Road, Hampstead, central London, who holds a Russian title, flinched as the jury returned its verdict.

He had denied the charge of conspiring to steal property from Lady Illingworth between January 1984 and 1986.

He was allowed bail overnight, and as he left court he said: "I have nothing to say except that I am completely innocent."

The court has been told

during his 9-week trial that the senior and "cunning" Lady Illingworth, widow of Baron Illingworth of Denton, Postmaster General between 1916-21, was systematically stripped of her wealth.

It happened after she left her London home to stay with Baroness de Stempel at her 3-bedroomed country cottage in Docklewood, Hereford and Worcester, in 1984.

The court was told that more than 67 documents were forged to give the Baroness access to Lady Illingworth's bank accounts, her shares, silver, jewellery and furniture worth £500,000 – the sum-week trial was told.

A new will was forged in her name, leaving the bulk of her estimated £1 million estate to her niece – like her a direct descendant of William Wilberforce, the anti-slavery campaigner.

The prosecution said that the Baron, who holds a Russian title, had been instrumental in organizing a solicitor prepared to sign Lady Illingworth's will and the removal of the old lady's property from bank vaults and her flat at York House, Kensington Church Street, London.

The court was told that he worked "hand-in-glove" with the Baroness and was estimated to have received £40,000 from Lady Illingworth's money "for his trouble".

The court was told that after being stripped of her property and money, Lady Illingworth was dumped into a Harpenden hospital before being transferred to a council-run old people's home where she died in 1986, aged 86.

Between 1931 and 1967, Lady Illingworth had lived at 44 Grosvenor Square, in London's Mayfair, a 42-room mansion.

When her husband died in 1942 he left her shares in trust which by the time of her death were worth more than £1 million and gave her an

annual income of £50,000.

Mr Richard du Cann, QC, for the Baron, had told the jury during the trial: "You may think this man a congenital liar."

"You may also think he is a monumental snob and that he comes out of this case with his reputation in shreds."

The court heard that the Baron had a habit of lying since childhood and had lied to the police that he had an Oxford degree.

But Mr du Cann said that he had become involved with the Baroness, whose whose cunning and devotions he could not match.

The couple married in 1984 and divorced two years later.

The Baron claimed that he had been blackmailed into the marriage by a threat from her that she would report him to social workers for being a bad father to one of his children from a former marriage.

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Cleric goes to the dogs for television charity

MICHAEL POWELL



The Rev Eric Evans, the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, joining canine friends for a 10-minute sit-in yesterday in aid of ITV's charity telethon

Fire chiefs look for ambulance service takeover

By Robin Stacey

RADICAL proposals for the future of the fire service, including the taking over of local emergency ambulance networks, were outlined yesterday by chief fire officers.

The plans, which were criticized immediately by fire and ambulance workers, also suggest a no-strike agreement for employees and the phasing out of restrictive practices.

Under the integration scheme, paramedics and their ambulances would be absorbed into the fire service and could expect to receive comparable pay and conditions. The bulk of routine ambulance work would be unaffected.

The National Union of Public Employees (Nuje), the union of most ambulance workers, said any merger of the two services would bring "considerable confusion", while the Fire Brigades Union said fire fighters would never give up their right to strike.

The report, "Managing For Tomorrow's Needs", will be presented to a summer conference of the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association after time for discussion.

Mr Robin Currie, technical

Quarrymen fined over birds' nests

TWO men were found guilty yesterday of destroying a colony of birds' nests at a sand quarry in Berkshire.

Magistrates at Bracknell decided that the men employed by Redland Aggregate, the gravel company owning the pit, broke the Wildlife and Countryside Act by digging up a bank where 100 sand martins had made their nests.

Anthony McMahon was fined £50 for destroying the nests and another £50 for destroying the birds' eggs. He had to pay £100 costs.

Frank Quinn, project supervisor at Newpoort Pagnell, was found guilty of the same offence and fined a total of £200 with £100 costs. Similar charges against Redland Aggregate were dismissed. Both men and the company had denied the charges.

Mr Andy Jones, investigations officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, who launched the prosecution, said: "It's a great move forward. It's a great result for the conservation of Britain's wildlife and perhaps other companies will take note and ensure their employees put wildlife creatures before their company's profits."

McMahon, of Grove, Oxfordshire, said that he was only acting under orders when he dug up the nesting site.

Prince urges more businesses to invest in the inner cities

By Tom Giles

THE Prince of Wales yesterday stepped up his calls for investment in Britain's inner cities, telling the business community that it would be "positively reckless" to ignore their needs.

In the foreword to a report on the economic regeneration of inner cities, he said local communities needed to be nurtured and equipped for this partnership to guide local communities.

The report said: "Economic regeneration of our cities is not a choice, it is an absolute necessity for the economic survival and prosperity of Britain in the 1990s and the 21st century."

"For that prosperity to be achieved the foundations for change must be laid fast. They must be laid fast. And they must be laid deep."

Based on the findings of 15 BLT's set up across the UK since 1986, it said that lack of business confidence has wasted inner city resources and created a "tragic social decline".

Through BLT's, business leadership should instead seek opportunities for investment

and spread motivation through local "flagship" projects. To tap younger workforce potential there should also be greater co-operation with the Government's 180 Training and Enterprise Councils whose national network will be completed at the end of this year.

The report told the business community not to "stand back and wait for others to act".

• The Prince of Wales was at the centre of a dispute yesterday about a new aircraft runway that it is claimed could destroy the beauty of the Isles of Scilly.

He must decide whether to surrender seven acres of land by taking it back from an environmental organization he helped create.

The island council voted in favour of a new £1.5 million hard surface runway on St Mary's where the Prince has a holiday home.

Leadership in the Community – A Blueprint for Business Involvement in the 1990s, was prepared by the influential forum group Business in the Cities, sponsored by Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte.

Soccer crush victim still had ticket

ONE of the victims of the Hillsborough disaster was found with a complete ticket for the match although it should have been collected at the turnstile, an inquest heard yesterday (Lin Jenkins writes).

The immense cost of performing The Wall will be offset by the money already raised from the sale of television rights to 12 countries.

The income from the fund will be used for disaster relief worldwide.

Billed as the world's most spectacular event, the concert on July 21 will have an audience of 200,000 people in Berlin's Potsdamer Platz – and the no-man's land that has divided East and West Berlin since 1961. It will be performed in the shadows of the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag, close to Checkpoint Charlie. Live television coverage is expected to boost the audience to one billion.

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The

10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE COMMUNITY CHARGE

1 Your local council sets your Community Charge, not the Government.

2 Just over a quarter of the cost of local council services is paid for by the Community Charge. The rest, nearly three quarters, is paid for by business and the tax-payer.

3 Nearly half the cost of local services is paid from tax payers' money. So top rate tax payers pay much more than people with low incomes. In fact the 'rich' pay at least 10 times more toward the cost of local services than the 'poor'.

4 People on low incomes, students and many old age pensioners are entitled to a reduction often as high as 80%. This means that one in four local voters don't pay the full Charge - 10 million people will benefit.

5 If your Community Charge is more than £156 higher than last year's rates bill, the Government will pay the difference up to the Charge it estimated for your local council based on their previous spending. Check your bill - over 7 million people will benefit.

6 The Government are capping the 21 worst overspending councils (all Labour) to reduce the Charge and protect local people.

7 Labour are actively seeking to make your Community Charge as high as they can get away with. On the list of the 50 worst overspenders, you will find Labour and SLD councils but no Conservatives.

8 Labour have set the highest Community Charges in Britain. 30 of their MPs want to pass their bills on to others by not paying them. Labour dare not tell you their alternative to the Community Charge.

9 On average Conservative councils are charging you £89 for every £100 that Labour councils are charging. In London and the Metropolitan Districts on average Conservative councils are charging you £74 for every £100 that Labour councils are charging.

10 Labour councils cost you more. Conservative councils cost you less.

CONSERVATIVE COUNCILS COST YOU LESS



Breast test drive 'does more harm than good'

By Thomson Prentiss, Science Correspondent

BRITAIN'S recently-introduced national breast cancer screening programme, aimed at reducing the annual toll of about 15,000 deaths from the disease, is endangering the lives of many of the women it is meant to protect, according to an expert report published yesterday.

Professor Michael Baum, an eminent breast cancer surgeon, said in the report that implementation of the programme should be slowed down because it was doing more harm than good in some cases.

It was "flooding clinics with frightened women" and could lead to some of them undergoing unnecessary mastectomies and other surgical procedures on the basis of mistaken diagnoses, he said yesterday.

It was already putting such pressure on screening services that patients most in need of urgent clinical attention were having to wait longer.

Professor Baum, professor of surgery at the Royal Marsden Hospital in west London, is author of a critical foreword in the report, produced by the Greater London Association of Community Health Councils, on breast cancer diagnostic services.

Scrutiny is urged over transplants

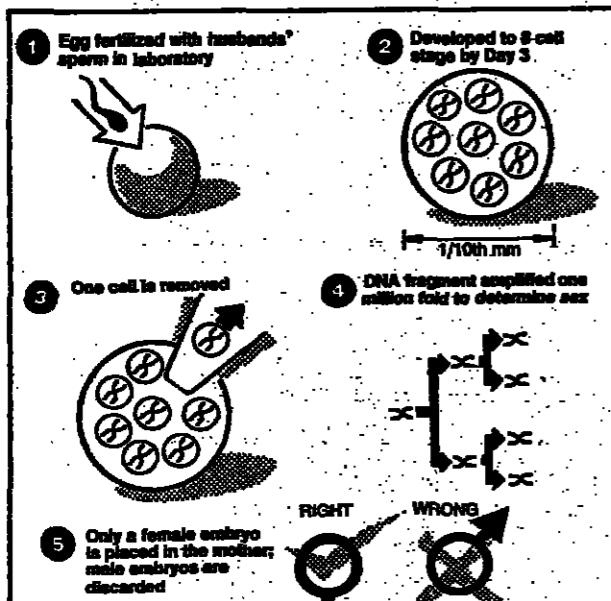
By Kerry Gill

TRANSPLANT surgery, including the use of animal organs, is morally acceptable, but there must be continued moral scrutiny and public debate on the issue of brain death diagnosis, according to a report published today by the Social Responsibility Board of the Church of Scotland.

Its transplants study group says there must be continued monitoring on whether parents should make decisions on the use of foetal material in research and surgery.

Christians should consider carrying "transplant" donor cards, but anonymity should be maintained for organ donors, says the report to be offered to the church's general assembly next month. The group says transplant therapy "is one of the most remarkable and hopeful advances in modern medical care".

The ethical issues over the use of foetal tissue must however be closely examined; who, for instance, should give consent for its use as a result of a mother's decision to terminate a pregnancy?



Watchdog backs embryo checks

By Our Science Correspondent

THE ability of scientists to prevent gender-linked inherited diseases by determining the sex of a human embryo before pregnancy was welcomed yesterday by the watchdog group that monitors such research.

Professor Robert Winston and colleagues at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, have achieved healthy pregnancies in three women with a family history of incurable hereditary disorders.

The women will all have baby girls as a result of an advanced *in vitro* fertilization technique that screened out male embryos at risk of the disorders. Dame Mary Donaldson, chairman of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, said yesterday that the Hammersmith work had been closely observed by the authority, which was satisfied that it was safe and effective.

As a counter to potential clinical objections to the technique, she said the authority received assurances from Professor Winston that "in no

Farmers paid to preserve landscape

By Peter Davenport

THE view over Mr Eric Featherstone's farm at the head of the Upper Farndale valley in the North York Moors National Park has changed little since his grandfather began working the same fields more than a century ago.

Now, in a pioneering scheme that may set the pattern for other national parks, Mr Featherstone and nine other farmers in Farndale, an area of dramatic beauty known as the "Valley of the Daffodils" because of the brilliant yellow flowers that carpet many of the fields, are to be paid to conserve and improve the countryside.

The programme is intended to detect early signs of the disease in women aged between 50 and 64 by encouraging them to attend clinics where their breasts are X-rayed and examined.

The report says that many younger women, for whom the process is probably useless, are being referred by their general practitioners for screening because of public misconceptions about it.

The result is that many breast clinics cannot cope with the extra demand, made worse by cuts in hospital beds and services because of economies imposed by budget-conscious health authorities.

Professor Baum said: "We are suffering the most outrageous cuts in services. I am coming to the firm opinion that as long as this crisis exists in the NHS, we ought to question the wisdom of offering a screening programme."

He said that two years ago, before the programme started, the waiting time for an outpatient appointment at his breast clinic in London was one week for urgent cases, and two to three weeks for non-urgent ones.

Today, even with an extra clinic and the recruitment of clinical research fellows to help out, there is a three-to-six-week wait for urgent cases, and up to three months for routine cases.

That was clearly an expression of the "anxiety neurosis" generated by heightened public awareness of the disease.

Professor Baum said there was an urgent need for an education campaign directed at both GPs and the public.

The GPs had to learn to distinguish signs and symptoms in women patients "and learn to recognize when the problem is really in the brain rather than in the breast," he said in the report.

"The public must be educated to understand that screening under the age of 50 is of proven benefit.

"Women over the age of 50 should not be clamouring for an early screen and might be better off waiting for their turn to come, by which time the health professionals will be adequately trained."

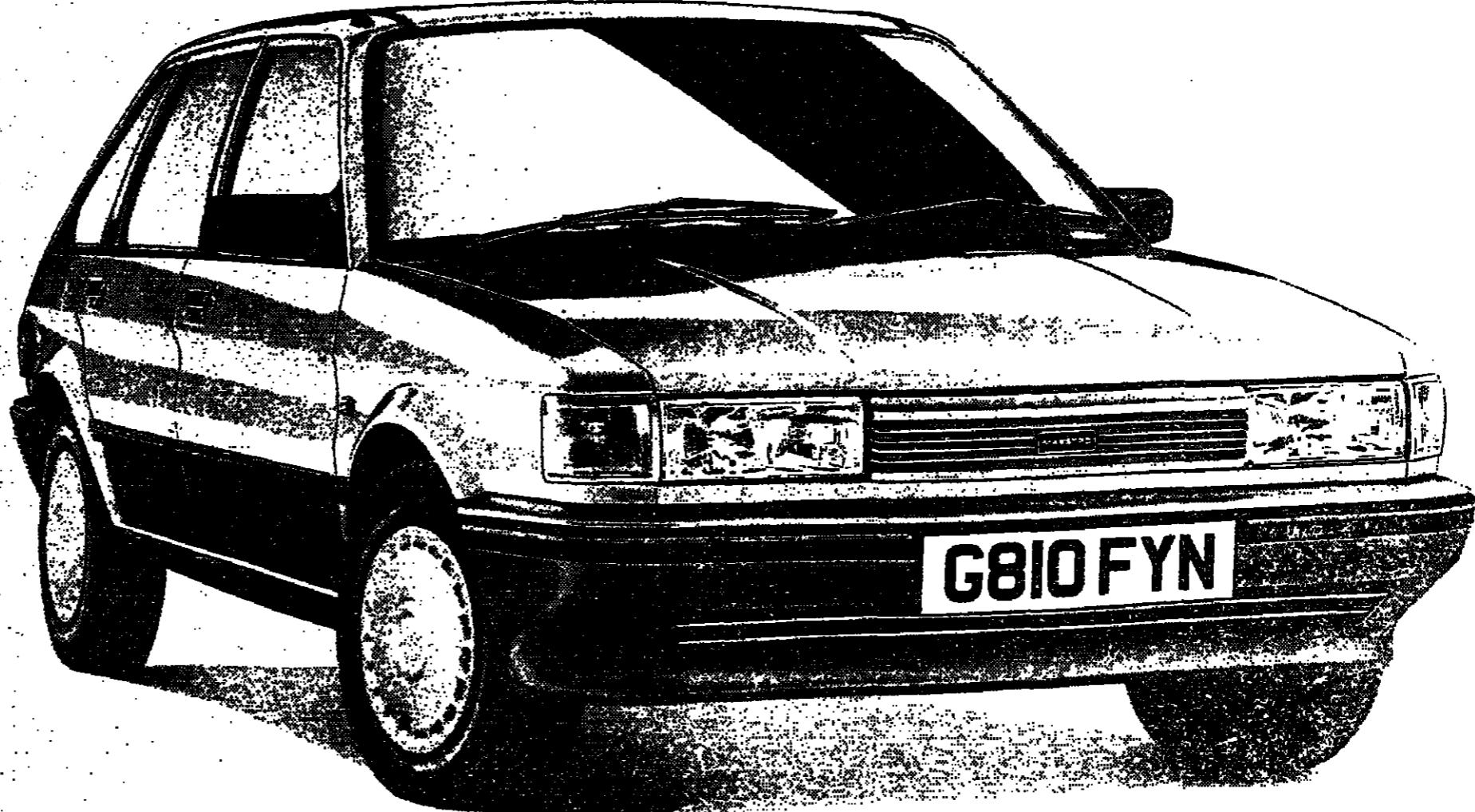
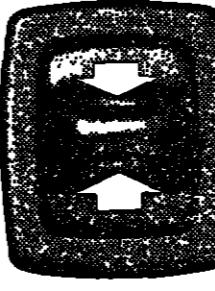
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Councils unite to challenge capping

By Ray Clancy

COUNCILS that have been community charge capped by the Government joined yesterday to mount a legal challenge against Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The challenge, based on the argument that the criteria used to choose which councils were capped was unlawful, if successful would result in the capping system being declared illegal.

Mr Bryan Gould, Labour spokesman on the environment, welcomed the challenge and said it would prove "the final come-uppance" for the poll tax. "Everyone knows

that poll tax capping was a political fix."

In the High Court on Tuesday most of the 21 capped authorities will add their names to an application to have a judicial review which has been lodged by the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

The leaders of the councils, who meet on Monday to finalize the legal details of the challenge, are confident of success but said the action is likely to be long and difficult. Only authorities whose case stands a good chance of success will be in court on Tuesday but others can join the action later.

"We believe we have a very powerful case," Mr Roger Berry, leader of the Labour group on Avon County Council which has no overall political control, said.

Miss Margaret Hodge, leader of Islington council in north London and chairman of the Association of London Authorities, which represents nine of the 21 councils, said it was only right that they should share costs by mounting an "umbrella action."

A timetable will be agreed on Monday. "We will determine which authorities are most appropriate to further the principal arguments and which authorities have the best cases in terms of their specific situations to ensure success against the Secretary of State," Miss Hodge said.

"This action is going to be difficult but we feel that on the grounds of legality, the way in which Mr Patten sought to define which authorities were to be capped, we have got to put our case. We think the way the capped authorities were selected was unfair, arbitrary and politically motivated."

Although each authority has a different position, the legal challenge will centre on the main issues of unfairness and legal yet allow specific issues to be brought out if necessary.

Counsel representing the authorities will argue in the High Court that Mr Patten did not use his discretion fairly, that by using the standard spending assessment as the method of capping he acted outside the Local Government Finance Act 1989, and that he used political considerations in singling out non-Conservative controlled councils for capping.

Mr Patten has already said he is confident the capping will stand up in court and has pointed out that all legal challenges to rate capping in the past had failed. The Department of the Environment said last night capping would not have gone ahead unless the Government believed it was "legally watertight."

Leading article, page 13



Members of the Green Party, carrying a spanner to put in the works of the community charge, parading outside the Houses of Parliament yesterday against the poll tax. The spanner wielder, Mr David Fitzpatrick, aged 36, a computer lecturer and local election candidate in Hackney, east London, said: "We are not saying people should not pay. But we are the only party that will support people who do not pay"

Porter puts case for a minister of London

The Government ought to create a new minister for London responsible for serious problems such as crime, traffic, transport and litter. Lady Porter, leader of Westminster City Council, said yesterday (Ray Clancy writes).

She said that the city was in danger of degenerating into squalor and faced tremendous competition from other cities with the creation of the single European market in 1992.

Launching a campaign to set up the new ministry she said it should not be a new style Greater London Council, which was disbanded in 1986, but an office attached to the Cabinet with a wide range of powers to co-ordinate the city's administration.

Key roles for the minister would include creating a partnership with business and voluntary agencies throughout the city, co-ordinating the supply of services from central government and making London's needs known.

Lady Porter said a minister was needed because the administration of London was scattered among 32 boroughs; unlike other cities "it is a national and international centre that attracts the attention of the Government in a way that no other British city can or does."

"The city is developing an unavoidable reputation as among the most squalid places in Europe and might follow the example of New York and become dominated by Third World cultures and underclasses qualified only by a smattering of yuppies, dinkies and visiting businessmen corralled in conference centres," she said.

Conservatives count on advertising blitz

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

THE Conservative Party yesterday launched a belated advertising blitz designed to make the case for the community charge.

In spite of the evidence of opinion polls, Mr David Hunt, Minister for Local Government and Inner Cities, asserted at a Westminster press conference: "The community charge is a winner."

Today's national newspapers carry advertisements headed "Ten things you should know about the Community Charge", emphasizing the number of community charge payers who are given help with payments.

One in four local voters, more than 10 million people, including pensioners, students and those on low incomes, will pay less than the full charge, at a cost of some £2.5 billion to the Treasury. Some seven million people will benefit from the fact that, as the

Government is capping the community charges proposed by the 21 "worst overspending" councils, although they are inaccurate in saying that all 21 are Labour-controlled. They say that there are only Labour and Liberal Democrat councils on a list of the 50 worst overspenders.

The Conservative theme in

the local government election

campaign is "Conservative councils cost you less".

To that end, the advertisements

say that "on average, Conservative councils are charging you £89 for every £100 that

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Labour councils are charging". In London and the Metropolitan districts the comparative figure for Tory-controlled councils was £74.

Mr Hunt said: "How can any charge be described as flat rate for everybody when more than a quarter of the people pay less?" Opinion polling

showed that people approved of the principle of the tax, it was the level of taxation to which they objected.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative party chairman, agreed that the community charge was the central issue in the local government elections campaign. It was the benchmark by which good local government could be judged.

He declared that there was a myth that everybody had to pay the same for local services and that the less well off had to pay high charges.

He attacked the Labour Party for launching a gung-ho campaign of lies about

the poll tax, and accused it of being "cynical and dishonest" in refusing to spell out its alternative before the local elections, saying that Labour's campaigners knew the cost of their proposals but dared not reveal them.

Mr Baker insisted that Labour had made a "strategic error of a major sort" in attacking the Government's integrity.

Other things could be said about the Conservative Government, he said, without specifying what these things were, but it could not be accused of lacking integrity.

It was made clear at yesterday's press conference that the Government is not considering a reversion to a system of income-handling for poll-tax payers. Revisions to the system would be confined to obvious anomalies and to the amount of central funding given to local authorities in revenue support.

Protesters occupy Glasgow offices

By Kerry Gill

ANTI-POLL tax demonstrators were last night preparing to occupy a sheriff officer's premises in Glasgow for the second night running in a protest over forthcoming action against people who have not paid their bills.

About 30 demonstrators have refused to budge since entering the building in the city centre on Wednesday. Yesterday they said they would remain until a promise was given that the sheriff officers would announce dates on which they were due to visit homes to assess goods liable to forfeiture against debts.

Mr Jack Harvie, of the Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation, claimed they had been given similar information by other sheriff officers' firms in the area. "We want an assurance that they will not go to the homes of working people without first giving them notice," he said.

The protest took place as Strathclyde Regional Council disclosed that the number of people who have not paid their bills or are seriously in arrears stands at about 400,000. Around £100 million is still owed to the region.

The council believes that much of this will be recovered but a planned debt write-off of about 5 per cent of the total poll-tax revenue looks as though it will be exceeded.

The occupation at the offices of George Walker and Company was continued in a relaxed atmosphere with the demonstrators occasionally breaking out in song and chanting slogans from the windows.

A spokesman for Strathclyde Police said they were keeping an eye on the incident, but no offence had taken place and they had not planned to take any action meantime.

Mr Tommy Sheridan, chairman of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation, said they wanted at least four days notification before offices went to a debtor's home. "It is only human to give people a bit of notice that you intend to come and visit them," he said.

Video to help council staff deal with poll tax abuse

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

A TRAINING video to teach local authority workers how to cope with conflict in poll tax offices is being made because most councils fear their staff will encounter verbal or violent attacks from the public.

Petrol has already been poured over one council employee by a man holding a packet of matches, and at least two councils — one in Lothian and one in Kent — have arranged self-defence courses for staff.

The £850 video package is being produced by Crown Communications with the help of a psychological training consultant and will be available throughout England and Wales by the end of next month.

A huge majority of councils

are abusing or violence from residents, according to a survey carried out by Crown.

Seventy local authorities, Conservative and Labour controlled, were questioned, and 75 per cent feared verbal abuse; 56 per cent physical violence; 45 per cent rude gestures or aggressive gesticulation; 15 per cent thought there would be disruption in waiting rooms and 5 per cent thought there was a possibility of big problems in poll tax offices.

Many poll tax payers, especially those eligible for reductions, will go to council offices each month to make payments and council leaders fear this is when there will be problems.

The 25-minute video tape, which will cost £50,000 to produce, will be combined with a printed training

manual which shows staff how to defuse every possible confrontation.

Video sequences will include a couple threatening to abandon their children in the poll tax office and a man unable to pay the charge chanting anti-Government slogans, sparking a mass protest.

In another scene, a pensioner blames the council clerk personally for the poll tax and attempts to attack him.

One sequence will have five young men from different backgrounds, none of whom paid rates, going each other on before starting banging the glass panels in the poll tax office booths and causing disruption.

Julia Seward, producer of the video, said yesterday: "Our researchers came up with interesting,

if not rather frightening statistics and cases which have already taken place around the country. From what we have learnt, community charge officers will clearly face problems with some members of the public."

"I've deliberately cast unknown actors and actresses to ensure all the sequences are highly credible."

The video, called *Well Then... Who Is In Charge Here?*, will be offered to all councils. Several have already expressed an interest, according to Crown.

"If 10 per cent buy the package, it will be commercially viable," the company said last night.

● The biggest parliamentary seat in England should be split into two constituencies, the Boundary Commission said yesterday. It said the

Milton Keynes seat in Buckinghamshire should be divided into North East Milton Keynes and Milton Keynes South West.

The existing seat, formed in 1985, has an electorate of more than 107,000, compared with most constituencies, which have between 60,000 and 65,000 voters.

The seat is held by the Conservative Mr William Benyon, who had a 13,701 majority over the Alliance in a four-cornered contest at the last election.

The commission's recommendation to Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, is for two constituencies with roughly equal numbers of voters. The Home Office said it was likely the recommendation would be accepted in time for the next general election.

Statue of Olivier unveiled

A statue of Lord Olivier, sword aloft in his role as Henry V, was unveiled in Stratford-upon-Avon yesterday. The bronze by John Blakely, who designed an ornate silver oyster for the Queen's 25th jubilee, was commissioned two years before Lord Olivier's death last year.

Mr William Reid took office as Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration in January. The cases highlighted in the report for 1989 were investigated by his predecessor, Sir Anthony Barlowclough, QC.

The Barlow Clowes affair, which led to the Department of Trade and Industry agreeing to award more than £150 million to investors, was the largest and most complex of the 126 full investigations carried out by the Ombudsman last year, Mr Reid said.

Other cases concerned social security and unemployment benefit payments, prisoners' complaints, the Inland Revenue and immigration.

In his report, Mr Reid said

New Ombudsman pledges to speed up case investigations

THE new Parliamentary Ombudsman published his first annual report yesterday and pledged to speed up investigations.

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In his report, Mr Reid said

the time taken by his office to complete investigations had increased from an average of just over 15 months in 1989.

Some cases were completed within three to six months, but a third of all cases took more than 18 months, with

two stretching to more than three years.

At the end of 1989, 183 cases were under investigation, and Mr Reid said that, while it would be unrealistic to expect to achieve the target time of an average nine months immediately, he hoped the backlog would be steadily reduced.

Of the complaints investigated, the Ombudsman found 48 per cent wholly, and 42 per cent partly, justified and 10 per cent unjustified. He had received 677 complaints during the year, 24 fewer than in 1988. Complaints against the Department of Social Security accounted for a third of all referrals.

Remedies recommended by the Ombudsman ranged from a simple apology by the department or body concerned, to staffing improvements and financial redress.

There is, however, nothing like a

severe case of canine bad breath to rupture that special relationship between a man and his best friend, according to Mr Colin Harvey, a veterinary surgeon based in America who specializes in dental treatment for pets.

"A severe dose of halitosis does tend to take the edge off that companionship, especially if, when you go home at the end of the day your dog greets you, tail wagging and panting into your face and all you want to say is: 'Go see your dentist'."

As might be expected, that is exactly what more and more dog owners in America, where pets can be even more pampered than in this country, are doing, but it is a trend that is growing here too, Mr Harvey said.

There are estimated to be 7.3 million pet dogs in the United Kingdom and at least 6.8 million cats;

as many as 84 per cent of those over

three years old have some degree of

periodontal disease according to figures

from the British Veterinary Dental Association. But help is at hand.

Root canals can be treated, cavities

filled and owners are now advised to

regularly brush the teeth of their pets.

There are even toothpastes coming

to the market to tempt Rover's

palate: liver and malt-flavoured

products are proving to be canine

favourites. There are also special

toothbrushes, cleaning pads and discs

that attach to the finger so that a pet's

gums can be massaged.

Gum disease was proving to be

the overwhelming dental problem for pet

dogs and cats, Mr Harvey said, and

Children die as police open fire in South Africa

Johannesburg

POLICE opened fire on demonstrators in a black township in the Orange Free State yesterday, killing four boys, police and local residents said.

Black activists in Ramulotsi township, about 120 miles south of Johannesburg, said the four boys were aged between 13 and 16. They added that up to 20 youths were wounded when the police fired on a peaceful anti-apartheid demonstration using shot and conventional bullets.

Police headquarters in Pretoria said the police in the township had been attacked by a stone-throwing mob and were compelled in self-defence to open fire with shotguns and rubber bullets.

A spokesman denied, however, that conventional rounds had been fired, adding

that only one person, a girl, had been wounded.

A local black activist said by telephone from nearby Kroonstad that about 400 youths, mainly of secondary school age, were marching peacefully, singing and chanting when a vanload of police pulled across their path. About six police, four whites and two blacks, jumped out, he said.

"They came from nowhere. Without any warning they got out of the van and started shooting. Four children died on the spot." Others were shot as they fled in panic, he added. (Reuter)

● Coup threat: Right-wing Afrikaner nationalist extremists, who stole a large quantity of weapons from South African Air Force headquarters in Pretoria, formally declared war on the African National Congress yesterday and

threatened to stage a *coup d'état* (Gavin Bell writes).

Mr Piet Rudolph, the deputy leader of the Boerestaat Party, admitted he was responsible for the raid on the Air Force's armoury and declared: "This is the beginning of the counter-revolution. The weapons will not be used against the Defence Force or the police, but against the ANC. We are now going for the ANC's throat."

Mr Rudolph, who is being hunted by the police, made his statements in a telephone call to a local newspaper.

Three military personnel have been detained in connection with the robbery — described as an "inside job" — which was carried out over the Easter weekend.

At least 70 advanced weapons were stolen, including assault rifles, a light machine gun, pump-action shotguns and semi-automatic pistols. Night-vision equipment and thousands of rounds of ammunition were also taken.

Fears of a violent white backlash against President de Klerk's reform initiatives were fuelled by belligerent rhetoric at a right-wing rally at Krugersdorp, west of Johannesburg.

Mr Robert van Tonder, Boerestaat's leader, warned that Mr de Klerk's policies "leave us Boere no other option but to take this land through violence, and possibly through a coup".

In any referendum to test white support for political reforms, he said, the Boers and other right-wingers would be defeated. "The Boere cannot go along with a referendum which gives the pink Cape and the British Isles a say in Boer affairs," he said.

Mr Eugene Terre Blanche, the leader of the paramilitary AWB (Afrikaner Resistance Movement), said a campaign by the far-right Conservative Party to solicit a million signatures for a petition against the Government would not force President de Klerk to call an election — "but they will hear us very clearly if the Boere assemble."

Mr Modise, who is still commander of the army and a member of the ANC's National Executive Committee, is to be a member of Mr Mandela's delegation to meet President de Klerk on May 2 for discussions on the country's political future.

Mr Han is still chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's military wing. Mr Piliso, who was the national chief of security, is now head of manpower and development and also a member of the NEC. Mr Moloi is still chief of operations, and Mr Masondo, who was national commissar of the security wing in Angola, is now principal of Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College in Tanzania.

They also claim that rebel ANC cadres are still being tortured in prison at Mafumbe camp in Tanzania and Mbarara camp, about 95 miles west of Kampala in Uganda.

According to them, the prison at Mbarara camp is run on similar lines to the notorious Quattro prison in Angola, where they were detained for five years without trial.

They named nine other officials who were arrested and imprisoned with them at Quattro and who they now believe to be detained at Mbarara.

Victims accuse ANC 'torturers'

From Marti Colley, Nairobi

FIVE former African National Congress guerrillas, who were tortured in the organization's military prisons in Angola, said yesterday that at least five of those responsible for maltreating them were still high-ranking officials within the ANC's leadership, and that other detainees were still being tortured in prisons at camps in Tanzania and Uganda.

This claim directly contradicts a statement made by Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC's deputy chairman, who said last weekend that the officials responsible had been disciplined and dismissed from positions of authority.

The men also alleged that two mass graves in Pango prison in Angola contained the bodies of 14 ANC cadres who were murdered or died during interrogation.

The former detainees — Mr Luvo Mbengo, Mr Amos Manzongo, Mr Bandile Ketele, Mr Zamuxolo Tshona and Mr Ronnie Masango — have appealed directly to Mr Mandela to investigate further the activities of Mr Christopher Hani, Mr Joe Modise, Mr Mzwandile Piliso, Mr Lihlano Moloi, and Mr Andrew Masondo who, they claim, were directly involved in the torture and murder of ANC men in Angolan jails.

"Nothing can be more treacherous than to allow such crimes to go unchallenged and unknown," the five said in an open letter to Mr Mandela. "We know how difficult it is to accept these bitter but objective truths, and how man-

moth the task is of taking appropriate actions against these individuals ... But we also believe that our people's yearning for justice can only be competently secured by a morally clean leadership."

The five are concerned that Mr Modise, who is still commander of the army and a member of the ANC's National Executive Committee, is to be a member of Mr Mandela's delegation to meet President de Klerk on May 2 for discussions on the country's political future.

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IRAN AND THE BEIRUT HOSTAGES

Rafsanjani in uphill fight to woo West and kidnappers

By Hazhir Teimourian

IF AN American hostage is freed today as promised by his captors, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, the episode will be interpreted as proof that the writ of President Rafsanjani of Iran does run at least parts of south Beirut. The view may be exaggerated.

For more than three months, Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani and his principal mouthpiece, the English-language *Tehran Times*, had been calling for the freedom of the foreign hostages in Lebanon, but none of the extremist Muslim groups in the south of Beirut paid any attention.

The President was fast losing any remaining credibility, and his men were becoming desperate, paying court to any second-rate Shia cleric in Lebanon they thought might have influence on the fate of the captives. Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani wanted all the Western hostages to be released together as a symbolic end to a decade of confrontation by Tehran with the world, and as the start of an era of co-operation.

His Government's much-promised economic reconstruction programme, a five-year plan to run to 1994, supposedly went into operation last month but seemed to be largely a paper exercise. In its first year alone, the plan requires at least £9 billion in hard currency in the form of loans and foreign investments to supplement another £9 billion which the Government optimistically expects to earn from oil and other exports.

Yet as long as Iran is seen as a state led by terrorists, few people will commit money to it. Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani is particularly keen that the United States and Britain approve his application to the International Monetary Fund for an immediate loan of several billion dollars. But the

freedom of a lone hostage, if it comes today, will not persuade the outside world that an era of moderation in Iranian foreign policy has dawned, particularly after a delay of three months in which even this group of kidnappers was able to ignore the President's repeated calls.

It is likely that Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani eventually succeeded in bringing about this limited change of mind on the part of the abductors through financial inducements, but more importantly, five of the eight US hostages held in Lebanon are believed to be in the hands of men controlled by his rivals for power, Hojatoleslam Ahmad

as a US agent.

Defendant wins right to bar women from jury

From Robert Cockburn, Sydney

ANY hint of Australia's traditional male chauvinism fading in the late 20th century was set back yesterday when a Queensland judge agreed a defendant had the right to ban all women from his jury.

Mr Paul Shelly explained to a court in Brisbane that it was against his religion to be judged by women and Judge Fournaux duly agreed — to the subsequent outrage of legal and civil rights organizations.

Queensland's Attorney General has been asked to investigate the judge's decision, for fear that this seeming act of prejudice, or eccentricity, will set a dangerous legal precedent.

Mr Shelly was accused of sending a threatening letter to Mr Mike Ahern, the former Queensland Premier. During the process to select the 12 citizens for his jury, Mr Shelly told the judge: "It's against my



Arms and the man: A Contra soldier in Yamas, Honduras, yesterday carrying assault rifles that the rebels are handing over to UN peacekeepers for destruction

Peking in warning on dissident radio ship

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

PEKING yesterday warned other governments against giving support to the Goddess of Democracy, the radio-transmitter flagship of the dissident movement in exile which is heading for China.

At a news briefing a spokesman said China would not tolerate assistance being given to the vessel, which the Government claims will broadcast anti-communist propaganda.

Asked about the possible use of force to stop the vessel, she said she could not comment, and her refusal fuelled speculation that China may attempt an armed attack.

China has criticized France for allowing the vessel to sail from a French port. The vessel's sponsors, Boat for China, are 19 French publications and the Paris-based Federation for Democracy in China. Once in place of mainland China next month, the vessel will broadcast news and rock music round-the-clock.

This so-called radical faction inside the ruling clerical establishment has announced that freeing the hostages would be surrendering to Western imperialism, and openly urges the Shia kidnappers in Lebanon not to heed President Rafsanjani's call.

In Tehran, patrols of armed Islamic zealots since starting out. The offices of *Actuel*, one of the sponsoring journals, was broken into last weekend and documents concerning the vessel and its mission were stolen.

● PARIS: *Actuel* said yes-

terday that the stolen disks had been returned in a unfranked parcel delivered by a postman. (AFP)

Shamir in trouble over new Jewish settlements

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

WITH both the Labour and right-wing Likud parties separately battling to lay the basis for a new coalition government, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the caretaker Prime Minister, acting Defence Minister and Likud leader, yesterday came under increasing fire for taking advantage of Israel's month-long political vacuum to authorize the building of four controversial new settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Three of the settlements were yesterday identified as Alon, near Kfar Adumim, halfway between Jerusalem and Jericho; Dugit, near Be'er Lahya in the Gaza Strip, and Pe'at Sadot, also in the Gaza Strip, near the border with Egypt. The fourth settlement, as yet unnamed, is at Jericho, on the West Bank.

Permission to build the settlements had been withheld by Mr Yitzhak Rabin who, as the Labour Defence Minister in the now defunct national unity government, was in charge of the occupied territories.

Settlers yesterday claimed that Alon was not a new settlement but an extension of Kfar Adumim. Mr Yehiel

Dugit.

As the row over the Army report broke, police in Haifa said Shlomo Sharon, a 20-year-old soldier found dead with an M16 rifle at his side, had apparently killed himself.

The controversy over Army suicide rates surfaced at the end of last year, when the Israeli press reported that

nearly 50 soldiers, many on national service, had killed themselves in 1989, twice as many as in 1988. General Dan Shomron, the Chief of Staff, said the suicide rates were not dissimilar to those among similar age groups in Western societies which did not have conscription.

None the less, some commentators have linked the Israeli phenomenon to the psychological stress imposed on young Israelis who are trained for normal defence duties but because of the Arab uprising are obliged to deal with civil disturbances in the occupied territories.

Some serve in units tackling Arab terrorists in southern Lebanon. Israeli psychologists say that the experience of suppressing the uprising has "ratified" many young Israeli men.

Mr Goldstein said the inquiry's findings were "grave" and accused the army hierarchy of trying to prevent the report from becoming public knowledge. But the Army said publication was being delayed because certain "sensitive sections" needed "revision".

Escaped captive fears Renamo revenge

Johannesburg

A BRITISH-born university professor, who escaped from Mozambique rebels at the weekend after being held captive for two months, said here yesterday that he now feared for his life.

Professor David Stephenson, aged 46, told a news conference he feared that external agents of the rebel

Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) would seek

revenge.

He and his fellow captive, Mr David Searle, a Zimbabwean industrialist, aged 40, escaped as their captors slept and walked for about 50 hours through the Mozambican bush until their limbs were swollen and lacerated.

He admitted to being so

terrified that "at times during the escape we could hardly move. We were aware that the slightest rustle would have awoken one of the sentries and we would have had a bullet through our heads".

He went on: "For about 50 hours we thought that we would not make it. The adren-

Sandinistas sign ceasefire with Contras

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

THE Sandinista Army of Nicaragua and the US-backed Contra rebels yesterday declared a formal end to their nine-year war.

They signed a definitive ceasefire, effective from noon yesterday, and agreed a demobilization plan for the insurgents which allows them to wait until a new government takes office next week before surrendering their weapons to United Nations peacekeepers.

The peace plan was announced at dawn after a grueling night of negotiations between Contra leaders and the commander of the Sandinista Army, General Humberto Ortega, brother of the outgoing President Ortega — who had earlier warned of a stormy handover of power next Wednesday to the President-elect, Señora Violeta Chamorro, unless the rebels disarmed first.

The new agreement, which a source close to the talks described as a "face-saving" formula for the rebels, now smooths the way for a peaceful transition to the victor of February's general election.

Details of the deal were announced at the Managua headquarters of the Organization of American States by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, head of the Catholic Church in Nicaragua, who has agreed to join the OAS and the UN as supervisors.

The ceasefire came into force at noon, after which the Sandinista Army had two days to withdraw all security forces, except police, from seven designated "security" zones, each about 200 square miles.

The 5,000 to 8,000 rebels

variously estimated to have moved inside Nicaragua from camps across the Honduran border in recent weeks are to enter the zones simultaneously with the Sandinista withdrawal, under the protection of UN troops.

Ankara — Turkey, recalling personnel from diplomatic missions in West Germany, requested Bonn to withdraw eight of its envoys in what seemed to be a tit-for-tat retaliation (Rasit Gurdilek writes).

The worst crisis in relations between the two Nato allies was sparked last month by a West German television programme which said federal security services had uncovered 30 Turkish secret police officials, posing as diplomats, spying on Turkish workers.

WHO cash fear

Geneva — The US will cut off its \$78 million (£48 million) annual contribution to the World Health Organization budget if the Palestine Liberation Organization is admitted as a member next month. Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, the WHO director-general, warned.

Israeli raids

Beirut — Israeli fighter jets struck Palestinian guerrilla bases south of Beirut, killing two people. (Reuter)

Blast injury

Madrid — A suspected ETA letter-bomb, addressed to the commissioner general of the 1992 World's Fair, blew off the left hand of a secretary in Seville.

First Aids death

Sava — A woman, aged 32, became the first person to die of Aids in Fiji. (Reuter)

Colombo offer

Colombo — The Sri Lankan Government said it was halting military operations against Sinhalese radicals to help the militants surrender. (AP)

Paris air threat

Paris — Air traffic controllers at two key centres near the French capital are to hold a one-day strike today, and some flights are likely to be affected, officials said. (AFP)

Ever missed out on a cuddle because of a client?



Ever had to catch the 7 am shuttle?

Ever been mis-quoted by a trade journalist?

Ever had to m-m-make a speech?

Ever had to cancel a holiday?

Ever been stuck in a suit when it's 80 in the shade?

Ever had to have "one last drink" with a client?

Ever been stuck in Stuttgart?

Ever worked so late you've slept at the office?

Ever had to sit through a sales conference?

Ever missed the last shuttle home?

Ever had to be nice to a smart-ass?

Ever wondered why you put yourself through all this?

Ever had to fire someone?

Because you're a professional. That's why.

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Meanings for all seasons

Philip Howard: new words for old

In the 2000s we shall be known by our words as well as our works. Will our generation be represented in the dictionaries by *bimbo*, *yuppie* and *video-nasty*, or by *golden parachute* and *unbundling* (Sir James Goldsmith's elegant euphemism for asset stripping), or by words as yet uncoined? Characteristic words can typify an age as the French imports *reign*, *royalty*, *rule*, *battle*, *strife* and *war* signified that the Normans had landed in the English language as well as on its Sussex beaches, and *mini*, in both its senses, as brief skirt and handy little car, symbolizes the Sixties.

Laser, *nude*, *axis*, *the Establishment* and perhaps *radius* all sound to me like modern 20th-century words. This just shows that there is nothing new in the dictionary — because they have been around, most of them for more than six centuries, in the tool-box of the English language, doing jobs and signifying meanings quite different from their modern ones.

Axis, of course, meant the axis of the earth or the axle of a wheel long before Hitler made a political association and then a military alliance with Mussolini, and then Hirohito. But long before that, *axis* meant a fever. King James I of Scotland uses it in *The Kingis Quair* ("The King's Book"), written while he was a prisoner in England, in about 1424, the time of his marriage to Lady Jane Beaufort, who is the poem's heroine. C. S. Lewis called it the first poem in celebration of married love, although in fact there are German poems of this kind from about 1200, including a famous one by Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Der helden Minne*. The royal prisoner, lamenting his misfortune, sees a beautiful lady walking in the garden below, and is smitten. The metre has been known ever since as rhyme-royal, though it had previously been used by Chaucer in *Troilus and Criseyde*. *The Kingis Quair* is one of the works traditionally described as "Scottish Chaucerian". Here is James on *axis*:

Bot the began myn axis and turment,
To sene his part, and folwe lna mygh.

Six centuries before it was introduced to mean a way of amplifying light by squeezing out an extremely narrow and monochromatic beam, and an important if improbable component of Star Wars, *laser* was the Scottish way of spelling leisure. Here is Robert Henryson (1424-1506 give or take a few years), the dour but humane schoolmaster from Dunfermline, and another Scottish Chaucerian, in *The Upplandis Mous*:

Bot, as God wald, it fell ane happy case
The Spencer had na laser for to byde,
Nouther to seek nor serche.

And here is William Dunbar, the greatest of the Scottish Chaucerians:

I cry the mercy, and laser to repeat.

For centuries before it got its mathematical and other meanings, *radius* was used to mean *radiant*. William Dunbar again, in *The Thrissil and the Rous*:

A radius crown of rubeis scha
him gaif.

And seven centuries before nuclear bombs were invented, *nuke* was in English as a variant of *nook* or *neuk*, a corner or angular thing, of obscure but at any rate distinctly northern origin. Dunbar in *The Dance of the Sevin Deidly Synnis*:

Than cryd Mahoun for a
Heleand padayne;
Syns ran a feynd to feche
Makfadane
Ffar northward in a nuke.

And here is Gavin Douglas, yet another Scottish Chaucerian, translating the *Aeneid*:

A stane
Quhill of a montane semyt a
great nuke.

The *locus classicus* for the coining of the *Establishment*, as a social and political OIBs network, is Henry Fairlie in *The Spectator* of September 23, 1955. Well, here is George Eliot in delicious *Daniel Deronda* in 1876: "This match with Grandcourt presented itself to him as a sort of public affair; perhaps there were ways in which it might even strengthen the Establishment." A later reference to a "match" to be accepted on broad general grounds, national and ecclesiastical" shows that this is indeed our own dear Establishment, pinned down by beady-eyed George Eliot (who had the rough personal experience of being put down but not out by several Establishments in her time) a century before the first use recorded by the reference books.

I am not sure what morals we can draw from the appearance of these words centuries before their time (some of them six or seven centuries before), in a kind of King James version. One is that one should always speak softly and carry a big dictionary when pontificating about the English language. Another is that there can hardly be a new word in the English language that has not already been formed as a variant before in the permutations of the 26 letters of our alphabet. Another is that Q is a useless letter, imported by the Normans. Plain Anglo-Saxon used cw. Another is that Scottish English is even richer in vocabulary and variants than English English — irritating though this may be to bulldog Sassenachs — because it draws on more sources. And another is that those Scottish Chaucerians were proper poets, unduly neglected because wrongly deemed obscure or difficult or irrelevant. One of the losses in the school and university curriculum is that we are reading less of Chaucer, Dryden and Milton, let alone Dunbar and the jolly King James's boys.

ALAN COREN

Sorry about this. But for fate's goody, you would at this moment have been teetering on the rim of a truly remarkable theory, and poised, your little hand in my big strong one, to plunge into bottomless speculation.

For — sitting in my dawn eyrie and marinating the simultaneous news that a big gun was being bolted together with the object of shooting an Iraqi on to the surface of Mars, that seven prisoners had legged it out of Gloucester choky by slitting down knotted sheets, that the Japanese were about to produce a ship capable of travelling at 100 knots by virtue of giant magnets, that the Hungarian army had recorded an encounter at Tarnaszent-maria barracks with giant extra-terrestrial creatures, and that a spokesman for young snooker-player Allison Fisher had declared that the only course now open to her was to infiltrate the circuit disguised as a bloke — it had suddenly occurred to me that the world was currently being organized by a couple of mischievous old barks formerly employed by *The Wizard*. How they had got their hands on the world was not immediately apparent, but it was probably something to do with a secret formula they had stumbled across in an old Egyptian tomb and handed to the mad professor in their basement.

Sadly, I have been unable to pursue this to what would have been our mutual satisfaction. For, just as I was musing on exactly how long it might be before Mr Nicholas Ridley confessed that the bits of guttering recently shipped to Guam were indeed parts of a giant seashellscope, or that the true reason behind Vivian Richards's extraordinary outburst was that a small boy in the crowd had succeeded not only in imitating the great man's voice but also in throwing it 200 yards, a blackbird — almost certainly from Porlock — flew past my dormer and drove all such trains of thought into a blind siding.

The bird had a twig in its mouth; but not for long. As it alighted on the branch opposite my window, it dropped the twig. Then it hopped over to a little heap of similar twigs and began beaking it furiously. Several of these twigs now fell out of the tree. The blackbird stared at what was left. Then it flew off.

I opened the sash, and leaned out for a closer peer. When I say that a nest was under construction, I should not like anyone to be misled: the pitiful little pile stood in roughly the same relationship to the usual weak-woven miracle as a builder's skip does to Blenheim Palace. Most of the aggregate had no chance whatever of incorporation into a successful billet: there were sweetpapers here, bits of flex, a couple of corks, a wizened daffodil, and even the twigs were of obviously grossly incompatible girth. It was as if the blackbird were firing on half-instinct — some arcane force had urged it to begin collecting stuff, but left it with the remotest idea of why it was being collected.

The bird flew back. It had a little red lid with it, possibly a Smartie cap. It put it on the pile. It flew off again. The heart went out. This bird was in real trouble. Did it know what it was building wasn't a nest? Would it eventually bring a female back to this wobbling heap, stick her on it, expect gratitude, get a beak in its eye? Worse, would it bring back an equally dim female (nature has a way of peer-bonding), and would she deposit her eggs on the mound only to have them roll off? I saw the parents gazing down at their family beneath, sunny side up, and I was riven.

What should one do? Let nature take its course, or intervene? The garden is full of old nests. I could ladder one up, crawl along the . . .

I stopped there. Monitor-neck-hairs had risen, just in time. *Dopey Old Birchesnester Gets Come-Uppance as Limb Snaps* ran the headline in my brain. Used to happen all the time, in *The Wizard*.

Mary Warnock supports limited parental freedom to choose the sex of a child

Boys and girls to order, and rightly

After years of research using human embryos immediately after fertilization in the laboratory, it has become possible to distinguish between male and female embryos within 36 hours of fertilization. There are many genetically inherited diseases which affect only boys (haemophilia is perhaps the best known, but they include Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and others less common). A family with a history of such diseases could therefore now choose to have their children by means of *in-vitro* fertilization, using the wife's egg and the husband's sperm, and selecting only the female embryos to be implanted.

It seems to me certainly right to allow a child to be born who will not suffer rather than one who will. I do not believe therefore that there are any moral objections that can be sustained to the use of the new techniques. Indeed, it was on the supposition that such techniques would be developed that the House of Lords voted overwhelmingly in favour of permitting research using human embryos up to 14 days from fertilization. Their faith that such

beneficial outcomes would be possible has now been justified.

But there is much more research to be done. For example, female children may be carriers of the diseases that affect their brothers, so it is essential to continue research which will allow the diagnosis of female carriers at the embryonic stage. We should also continue to research into how to identify the genes responsible for these diseases, although this does not necessarily involve the use of whole embryos.

Three moral objections are raised against the new techniques of sex selection. First, there is the radical view that no fertilized embryo should be allowed to die, and that if *in-vitro* techniques are used at all, all fertilized embryos, male or female, defective or otherwise, should be placed in the uterus. This view is in effect incompatible with the continued use of *in-vitro* fertilization techniques, for no conscientious doctor could deliberately cause a woman to become pregnant with a baby likely to be diseased. People who hold these views should have nothing to do with *in-vitro* fertilization, and of course no one wishes to make them undertake it.

Second, it is argued that once the procedures for choosing the sex of a child become standard, they will be frivolously used. It is generally assumed that couples would prefer boys, but in a society which does not limit the number of children a couple may have, I cannot see why. Some couples might choose to have a boy first to carry on their name, but most would choose to have a girl thereafter, if they had the option.

Moreover, it must be remembered that the sex of a child can be determined only outside the womb, which involves *in-vitro* fertilization. This is a relatively disagreeable and time-consuming process for the couple, especially the mother, and so far its success rate has not been very high. Until further research is done to improve the techniques, no more than a quarter of all attempts to implant the embryo fertilized in the laboratory actually result in a pregnancy. Most couples who want children will of course prefer to have them the ordinary way and take their chance.

But, in any case, if it is feared that people might whimsically decide to go through the risks and hazards in order to have a boy

rather than a girl, it is perfectly possible to introduce regulations to specify the family conditions under which sex selection will be permitted (and this in my view might properly include the selection of a male baby for those with hereditary titles).

Under new legislation, it is probable that a statutory body will be set up to issue licences not only for research, but for *in-vitro* fertilization clinics. Nothing could be easier, therefore, than to issue guidelines for ruling out frivolous applications for sex-selected babies. It could be stipulated that no application would be considered unless it were for the avoidance of a specified disease. Special cases could be considered by ethical committees. This should be enough to allay people's fears.

A third argument is sometimes put forward as a reason to restrict research that aims to eliminate inherited diseases. It is said that if genetically handicapped diseases were reduced, children who were nevertheless born handicapped would be regarded as "accidents" who managed to slip through some kind of eugenic net, and accordingly would be less cared for and more despised. I cannot

see the logic of this argument. It is just as likely that if there were fewer severely handicapped children, we could afford to take more care of them.

I cannot believe in a policy which lump all disabled or handicapped people together as a class, and then aims to ensure that their numbers do not diminish. There is in reality no comparison between the child who is born deaf or with mild mental retardation, and one who is born with Tay's Sachs disease or cystic fibrosis, who, to the acute distress of the parents, will lead a miserable and painful life for a few years and then die, still in childhood but without having enjoyed any of its pleasures.

It is a disservice to those people who are disabled to use them as counters to halt the kind of research that aims to eliminate inherited diseases. It is said that if genetically handicapped diseases were reduced, children who were nevertheless born handicapped would be regarded as "accidents" who managed to slip through some kind of eugenic net, and accordingly would be less cared for and more despised. I cannot

Gorbachov moves from gamesman to gambler

James Sherr on a critical change in the Soviet duel with Lithuania

The sharp curtailment of Soviet oil and gas shipments to Lithuania is not President Gorbachov's first move to escalate the secession crisis, but it is his first gamble. For the past six weeks Moscow has applied pressure of the sort that is easily masked and easily reversed. To those who experience it, the seizure of government offices, printing presses and deserts is coercion. To the outsider, it is "psychological pressure" and nothing more. So long as outsiders believe that, editorials will be written and warnings issued, but the business of improving Eastern-West relations will proceed.

By making good his ultimatum,

Mr Gorbachov has moved conspicuously from psychological to material attack. What is conspicuously provokes. Mr Gorbachov doubtless hopes that he will provoke the Lithuanians to settle or at least agree to a "Leninist compromise" which submits their claim of independence to the judgment of Soviet law.

But supposing his measures merely sharpen his appetite for resistance and sacrifice? To date, the Western public has been concerned but not stirred. This could change if food supplies dwindle for want of transport, and hospital wards close for want of electricity. Once it becomes an instrument of state policy, suffering can provoke as much outrage as force.

To all appearances, then, yesterday's events mark a further misreading of the crisis. But so long as Lithuania demands the restoration of their independence and the Soviet leaders wish to remain Soviet leaders, a mutually satisfactory resolution of the crisis is unlikely. If Gorbachov accedes to demands from Lithuania and other Baltic states, he risks fuelling secessionist sentiment throughout the Soviet Union. The risk arises despite a clear difference in principle between the situation of the Baltic republics and that of others.

The difference is not that the Baltic states never consented to

join the Soviet Union. That is the similarity, for the Soviet Union has never been a voluntary union. As the Baltic states were abducted, so were Moldavia and the territories that now form much of western Belorussia and western Ukraine. Georgia did not volunteer for admission until its independent Menshevik republic was crushed by a Bolshevik invasion in 1921. Nor did the Turkic peoples of central Asia, where repression of the Basmachi insurgency continued until the 1930s.

The difference is that the Baltic states were states up to the time of their abduction, internationally recognized (unlike Georgia) and in regular intercourse with other states for 22 years. Moreover, the instrument of *de facto* incorporation, the secret protocols to the German-Soviet non-aggression treaty of 1939, is regarded by the West — and now, it seems, by the Soviet authorities themselves — as having no legal foundation.

So the Lithuanians are claiming redress for aggression, and the restoration of independence, not its granting. Yet the issue continues to be cast in terms of self-determination, and Mr Gorbachov knows that if the Lithuanians succeed, others will seek to follow.

For this reason, too, the Lithuanians know that it is not in Mr Gorbachov's interests to help them. They recognize that he has picked a quarrel over means — the manner of Lithuania's secession — to disguise a dispute over the end. If they trusted Mr Gorbachov's hints that a face-saving path to independence could be found, they would probably help him find it. Instead, what they see is a law on secession which is plainly a law against it. The law is proof enough that Mr Gorbachov would not use a five-year transition period to help Lithuania to the exit, but to bind it hand and foot.

However, some have suggested that if only the Lithuanians were willing to compromise, they could remain in the Soviet Union in terms more favourable than they



would secure by leaving it. This one is entitled to doubt. Over the past five years, Mr Gorbachov has shown himself to be an integrationist rather than a revolutionist. His model of a Soviet federation is one that many non-Russians find even less attractive than Brezhnev's. When Brezhnev tolerated diversity — and corruption — as the price of stability, Mr Gorbachov has purged, pruned and dictated. He has also sought to intensify the workings of an economic system long considered exploitative and ecologically ruinous.

Today in the Baltic states, the Caucasus and Central Asia, he reaps what he and his predecessors have sown. Although he is capable of reversing course in his nationalities policy, he is compromised in the eyes of those he must convince.

This is certainly true in Lithuania itself. Since March 11, when independence was declared, Mr Gorbachov's tactics have followed the classic pattern of discipline, co-ordination and underhandedness. The discipline has been manifested in the crafting of means which would not compromise wider ends. This process began as long as a year ago, when "Tass correspondents" sought to gauge the limits of Western tolerance (occasionally in telephone interviews to conservative opinion leaders, raising the "hypothetical" question of what the response would be if force were

used). The lukewarm response of Western governments to the Tiananmen Square massacre, and their almost sympathetic response to the dispatch of troops to Azerbaijan, doubtless sent signals as well. By the winter of 1989, Mr Gorbachov probably concluded that he would be safe if the coercion fell short of violence.

By this time, the real necessity for restraint was internal. As a Marxist, Mr Gorbachov knows that violence can have revolutionary consequences for those who use it as well as those who suffer it. The reliability (and strength) of Soviet security forces is far from limitless. A military *coup de main* in Lithuania is within Soviet power, but the battle would not be worth winning if it triggered explosions elsewhere in the Baltic states, Belorussia or the Ukraine, for if the battle became much larger, it might not be won.

The result of these constraints has been a strategy of force without violence. The strategy has several merits. For one, it was unexpected, confounding both the opponent and its potential supporters. For another, it enables pressure to be administered in digestible doses. What stunned on Monday was routine by Thursday and could be augmented on Friday. Measures which would have met resistance if carried out at once were tolerated when introduced gradually. But the strategy had a drawback: it destroyed goodwill on the other side. Like all Leninist strategies, it aimed to produce agreement by manoeuvre rather than by persuasion.

Within the past 24 hours, Mr Gorbachov has not only intensified the pressure, but changed it.

This change shows that Lithuanians have recovered their balance and been strengthened in their collective resolve. Yet it also illustrates the risks that Mr Gorbachov is willing to take to preserve the integrity of the Soviet Union. There is a great risk, for if the Lithuanians do not soon yield, Mr Gorbachov's East-West policy may suffer grave damage. And if Mr Gorbachov himself yields, he may encourage the very forces of dissolution he is aiming to defeat.

The author is Lecturer in International Relations at Lincoln College, Oxford.

DIARY

Out on bail

Press officers accompanying Foreign Secretaries on overseas tours are often required to act above and beyond the call of duty, but none more so than Andrew Burns, 46, who stands down today as head of the Foreign Office Press corps. Burns's colleagues still recall with admiration the occasion when he accompanied a party of journalists on a river voyage in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. He was on the last leg of Sir Geoffrey Howe's Middle East tour and the boat started to sink. An admirer recalls: "Burns simply took off his shoe and bailed until they reached dry land." The Foreign Office was last night too busy fitting Burns on his departure to confirm his shoe size.

Silent film star

If proof is needed of how well Garbo guarded her privacy, look no further than the American Press, whose obituaries struggled to say anything about her beyond listing her film roles. Apart from the local off-licence manager retailing the number of

Stolichnaya and Scotch bottles delivered to her apartment, the papers have restricted themselves to multifarious accounts of "the Garbo I never knew". The doyen of New York gossip columnists and



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE April 19: The Queen was represented by Mr Charles Lucas (Deputy Lieutenant for West Sussex) at the Funeral of Sir Geoffrey Harrison (formerly Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Moscow) which was held in Holy Trinity Church, Lower Teddington, Horsnall, Lower Teddington, Horsnall.

The Prince Edward this evening attended a screening of the film "Ode to" at the National Film Theatre, South Bank, London, to mark the Centenary of the birth of Herbert Wilcox.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

The Princess Royal left Gatwick Airport, London this afternoon for New Zealand, where Her Royal Highness will attend the 50th Anniversary ANZAC Day Commemorations.

Mrs Andrew Feilden and the Hon Mrs Louloudis were in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE

April 19: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this morning at the Cenotaph Association Reunion at the Imperial War Museum.

Kath, Lady Fernoy and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 19: The Prince of Wales received the Secretary of State

for the Environment (the Right Hon Christopher Patten, MP), the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (the Right Hon John Gummer, MP), Mr Carlo Ripa di Meana (European Communities Commissioner for the Environment) and Mr Ray MacSharry (European Communities Commissioner for Agriculture).

The Princess of Wales, Patron, the Guinness Trust, attended a Centenary Lunch at NatWest Hall, Old Broad Street, London EC2.

Mrs Max Pike and Lieutenant-Commander Patrick Jephcott, RN were in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

April 19: Princess Alexandra this afternoon opened St Mary's House for the Elderly, a home run by the Grace and Compassion Beneficences at Preston Park Avenue, Brighton, and was received by Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for East Sussex.

Afterwards, Her Royal Highness opened the new Convalescent Rest Building of the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund at Marine Court, Littlehampton and was received by Major-General Sir Philip Ward, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

Archaeology

Sailing ahead with choice of sealants

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

CHINESE archaeologists have found that a 700-year-old ship recovered from the Fujian coast was waterproofed with three different blends of caulkings material. A putty made from plant oil was used. This was either applied by itself or it was mixed with jute fibres or bamboo shreds.

The ship, itself a unique survival of the late Song Dynasty (AD960-1279), was found about 15 years ago in the harbour of Quanzhou, and it has now been conserved and placed on display in the local museum.

Mr Li Guo-qing writing in the *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* emphasizes that "the vessel provides a unique opportunity to study Chinese maritime technology: the hull planks were joined in a very complex pattern using a combination of clinker and carvel methods," and up to three kinds of scarf joint were used on the same stroke.

Of equally great interest, however, is the t'ung putty used for the seams, to fill crevices on the hull, and cover fasteners. "It is apparent that the shipwrights recognized the

Source: *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 18:277-283



OBITUARIES

ADMIRAL SIR FRANK HOPKINS

Admiral Sir Frank (Henry Edward) Hopkins, KCB, DSO, DSC, DL, who has died in Hawaii aged 79, was until his death the senior surviving naval aviator and was qualified both as a pilot and an observer. He was born on June 23, 1910.

FRANK Hopkins joined the Royal Navy in 1927 from the Nautical College, Pangbourne, and from then until the outbreak of the Second World War he served in HM ships *London*, *Tiger*, *Whitehall*, *Victoria* and *Winchester*. After training as an observer, he sailed with the aircraft carriers *Courageous* and *Furious*. During the war he served with conspicuous gallantry and endurance in many theatres of operation.

In 1940 flying from shore bases in England he was engaged in bombing and minelaying raids, in attacks on enemy shipping and protection of convoys and in cover of the evacuation from Dunkirk. Thereafter he joined HMS *Formidable* and moved to the Mediterranean in late 1940. He continued with 826 Squadron and in 1941 was awarded

the DSC and mentioned in despatches for daring attacks on the Italian fleet off Cape Matapan among other hazardous operations.

He then took command of 830 Squadron and led unremitting and strikingly successful operations from Malta, itself under aerial bombardment by the Germans against enemy ships attempting to reinforce Rommel's army in North Africa. For this performance of outstanding courage, determination and endurance he was awarded the DSO in 1942.

After a tour of duty in Washington he qualified as a pilot in 1944 and was then lent to the U. S. Pacific Fleet serving in the carriers *Intrepid* and *Hancock* and witnessing the defeat of the Japanese Navy in the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

Two years on the directing staff of the Naval Staff College were followed by another tour in Washington, this time as Assistant Naval Attaché during which he was awarded the United States Legion of Merit in 1948.

In 1950 as Commander(Air) of HMS *Theseus* he played a

large part in the successful operations of her air group in the Korean War and was again mentioned in despatches. Later in the year he was promoted to Captain in which rank he served as Director of Air Warfare in the Admiralty and commanded a number of ships, the biggest, most exciting and satisfying being HMS *Ark Royal* in 1956.

Promoted to Rear-Admiral in 1960, he became the Flag Officer Flying Training, then Flag Officer Aircraft Carriers in 1962 and as a Vice-Admiral, the Fifth Sea Lord and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff in 1963.

During his time on the Admiralty Board he was heavily involved in the unhappy confrontation with the Royal Air Force for the survival of the fixed wing Fleet Air Arm and for a new generation of strike carriers.

This was a very emotional experience for him and when the decision went against the Admiralty Board in 1966 his inclination was to resign along with the First Lord and the First Sea Lord. He was dissuaded on the grounds that he could do more good by staying

than by going. His last appointment before retiring in 1967 was as Commander-in-Chief Portsmouth in the rank of Admiral.

He had been appointed CB in 1961 and KCB in 1964. He retired to Dartmouth in Devon where he indulged his love of sailing and he was elected a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron. In 1982 he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Devon.

Frank Hopkins was an extraordinarily modest and a rather private person. He had great charm and was the personification of kindness, yet he was a brave and determined fighter both in war and peace. He always led from the front and his thoughts were constantly for those who followed him.

In 1939 he married Lois Barbera and one year after she died in 1986 he married Georganna Priest, who was the widow of an old friend of his in the United States Navy. They spent half the year in Dartmouth and half in Hawaii where he died.

GEORGE BOLSOVER

George Henry Bolsover, CBE, who was Director of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London, from 1947 to 1976, died aged 79 on April 15. He was born on November 18, 1910.

GEORGE Bolsover's life-long interest in Russian history and foreign policy began as an undergraduate at Liverpool University. His London doctoral thesis in 1933 on *Great Britain, Russia and the Eastern Question, 1832-1841* established him as one of the leading young British scholars in this field.

It's output of linguists provided the manpower for a rapid expansion of Russian in British secondary schools, polytechnics and the universities in the 1960s and 1970s.

He was also involved in extending Russian and Soviet studies at universities into the

social sciences through the Hayter programme.

As director of the School of Slavonic Studies his aim was to produce an academic atmosphere in which serious scholarship could flourish. He developed its library into a major national specialized collection.

Despite the burden of administrative duties, Bolsover published important articles on Russian diplomatic history, chiefly in the School's *Slavonic and East European Review*.

He had a warm interest in people and their problems and a particular regard for students and their welfare. He was appointed CBE in 1970.

He is survived by his wife, Stephanie, whom he had married in 1939, and one daughter.

GRETA GARBO

Adrienne Corri writes:

'THE way to meet Garbo (obituary of April 17) was to shop at the same grocer's. For two years we became friends on our meetings over the qualities of grapefruit or asparagus at our local Griswold's on 52 East St. in New York. This was during the early 1960s when I was working in the theatre there.'

She was still very beautiful, if that word could describe her, wore no make-up and was never dared to mention that I was an actress or that I

invariably dressed in a rain-coat, flat shoes and a brimmed hat.

I longed to ask her about her films but knew that would be the end of our acquaintance, so I reckoned that meeting her as one housewife to another was better than not at all.

After all, it is not everyone who can say: "Today Queen Christina recommended the artichoke".

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Source: *Nature*-The Times News Service, 18:277-283

REMEMBERING THE PAST

Artificial toxin used to fight yellow fever

AN ARTIFICIAL version of a scorpion toxin gene could be a powerful new weapon in the war against the yellow-fever mosquito *Aedes aegypti*.

The problem with natural toxins is that they are nearly always uneconomic to develop commercially. The venom of the scorpion *Androctonus australis*, for example, is a cocktail of toxins, each one made of protein, that paralyse both insects and mammals.

The toxin that exclusively affects insects makes up less than 1 per cent of the protein in the venom, and scientists would have to squeeze a lot of scorpions before they obtained a viable quantity of the pure toxin.

The answer to this problem comes from recombinant DNA technology. From the structure of the protein itself,

researchers can make a good guess at the structure of the scorpion gene that encodes it. This gene can then be synthesized and introduced into an organism, such as a microbe, in which it can be persuaded to work and produce enough scorpion toxin in commercially viable quantities. Scorpion-squeezers need no longer apply.

Mc-Hui Lai and colleagues of the Lilly Research Laboratories in Indianapolis tried this, but their attempt to coax the bacterium *Escherichia coli* to make scorpion toxin was a failure. Undeterred, they tried the same trick with cultured mouse cells and scored a resounding success, reported in the latest issue of *Bio/Technology* (vol 8, pp 339-342).

The researchers infected the

mouse cells not just with a gene, but with what amounted to an entire artificial virus. In addition to the artificial scorpion gene, their synthetic vector (known as an "expression vector") was constructed from a *melange* of genetic oddments. A gene from a mouse leukaemia virus ensured that the vector would be at home in mouse cells; a fragment of the human gene for the hormone interleukin-2 ensured that the scorpion toxin, once made in the mouse cells according to the genetic instructions, would be exported into the culture medium so the researchers could extract it easily.

All *Androctonus* toxins have four cysteine cross-bridges. The position of just one of the four bridges is the only difference between the insect toxin and one of the three toxins that affects mice: the difference may seem small,

but it is enough to change the toxin's activity. Nerve toxins work by sticking to specific receptors on the surface of nerve cells, sparking off chemical changes inside the cells that may result in paralysis.

Similar toxins are found in the tropical cone shell *Conus textile* that preys on snails, injecting them with the deadly toxin.

However, as Scott R Woodward and colleagues of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Salt Lake City report in the latest *EMBO Journal* (vol 9, pp 1015-1020), the secret of the toxicity is depends on the number and position of the cysteine cross-bridges.

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Misconstrued or misconceived?

John Russell Taylor considers the arguments for and against Conceptual Art, and looks at some exemplars which are now on exhibition in London

Britain has been notoriously slow in taking Conceptual Art to its heart – if, indeed, that is the appropriate place to take it. When the Eighties succeeded the Seventies, it seemed for a while as though the chance to do so had been permanently lost.

Art was clearly veering off in quite a different direction, going back to painting and sculpture more or less as they had been traditionally understood, and producing all sorts of new variations on such figurative approaches as Super-Realism and Expressionism. But this has also been the age of pluralism, and so no style or approach has been totally dismissed. The Young Turks of the Seventies have in some cases hung on to become Modern Classics, and as the Nineties begin the newcomers are quite as likely to be Neo-Conceptual as Neo-Expressionist.

At the moment several of the major public spaces in London are showing Conceptual artists, old and new. So, is there a greater acceptance of them now than there was in 1980? It depends, of course, on the assessment of whether the experiment of Conceptual Art – seeing how far the "doing" of art can be reduced, in favour of the "thinking" – could be said to have failed.

Certainly there is something to look at, something that has been made, in the Colin McCahon show at the ICA until May 27, the Christian Boltanski show at the Whitechapel Art Gallery until June 3, and the Allan McCollum show at the Serpentine Gallery or the McCahon part of the ICA show until April 28. But in each case the concept clearly remains paramount. And in each case it has to be questioned whether that is quite enough.

Boltanski (born 1944) is the most famous and long-lasting of these artists. He is French-Jewish, and makes much use of found materials, whether caches of photographs from school or criminal records, or the possessions of unknown persons or himself as a child, or old clothes collected at random.

At least Thurber's lady with the true Emily Dickinson spirit got fed up sometimes, and the man in *One Way Pendulum* who kept a skull on the mantelpiece as a *memento mori* constantly forgot. Boltanski, by contrast, has been singly and singularly obsessed with death throughout his career, obsessed with the fact that people die, and also that moments of time and experiences are soon buried in oblivion.

It is interesting, in a way, that all the

children shown in "Lycée Chasses" were in the same class of a Jewish high school in 1931. Once this is known, the observer may be moved by speculation on their possible fate in the Holocaust. It may be noted, sadly or ironically according to choice, that it is now completely impossible to disentangle from "Reserve – Detective II" which of the people pictured in *Détective* magazine were the villains and which the victims.

It may even be found intriguing that the only thing all the Swiss elsewhere depicted have in common is that they are dead. But there does remain a strong desire to ask "so what?"

Any emotion generated is the result of putting it into the same kind of literary context as the Victorians applied to the Academy's annual problem picture. I have noticed at various Boltanski shows that some spectators are ready to be deeply moved, but tend to confusion as to precisely which pieces deeply move them until they have read the labels and checked the background stories. How worrying is it to be moved by contemplating the Holocaust, and then to find that the cause of the emotion is a piece showing the members of the Mickey Mouse Club in 1955?

Conceptual Art constantly throws up such obstacles to knowing whether it is the art or the news story that is providing the emotional pull. (So, for that matter, does the Magnum photography show currently at the Hayward Gallery.) Visitors to the Serpentine Gallery or the McCahon part of the ICA show will find little comfort in this respect.

McCaughon (1919-87) was a New Zealander who began as a painter but became increasingly preoccupied with words, letters and numerals. At first he painted them in subtle and sensitive ways, but then he moved increasingly towards treating the act of painting as the making of graffiti, or giving it up altogether in favour of writing gnomic messages on pieces of paper. The

John Russell Taylor's recommendations from other shows

PLASTIC EXPLOSION: Beketov, thou shouldst be living at this hour. And if it is, preserved to lend colour to "The Plastic Age", a hymn to pre-postmodernism. Victoria & Albert Museum (01-938 8500) until May 29.

NEWLYN BREEZES: Most of the best of the optimistically named "English Impressionists" worked at some time around Newlyn, Cornwall. "Breath of Fresh Air" gathers them together in all their lightness and charm. David Messum (01-408 4203) until May 5.

ENGLISH GRAIN: Douglas Percy Bliss was not



Hilarious invention: Jiri Kolar's "Déjeuner sur la vache", 1967, included in the show *The End of Words* at the ICA

London show is a selection from a major retrospective recently seen in Auckland – and, it seems, a rather perverse one.

The real paintings, such as "I and Thou" (1954-55), have mostly been eliminated, to concentrate on the later, more frankly conceptual pieces. The contention is that a graffiti which reads "AM I Scared Boy (EH)" is intensely moving. As a human document it may be; but as a work of art?

Allan McCollum (born 1944) is a Californian who has recently been much hyped as part of the new New York return to abstraction. At the Serpentine he is

showing a room lined from floor to ceiling with blacked-in picture frames; a room almost filled with a table-top covered with identical moulded pieces of obscure original purpose, all coloured a blinding salmon pink (the same piece, to judge from the catalogue, is also available in pistachio). Then there is a room filled with large urn-like mouldings in different pastel shades.

Slightly more interesting is a room of photographic blow-ups. These are taken from small snaps of images on the television screen including works of art. The detail that is concentrated on is, of course, the art-work, reduced to abstraction by their successive miniaturization and enlargement.

At least the last piece embodies an idea of some sort, not so different from Tom Phillips's in reconstituting the collection of the Mappin Gallery, Sheffield, from a smudgy Edwardian postcard. McCollum has also shown the good taste to be fascinated by Hitchcock's misguided *Marnie*. But otherwise, the longer the installations are considered, the less can be

seen in them. I cannot help feeling that new New York art must be in a pretty bad way if these specimens are among the best it can offer.

The one redeeming feature of all this is that at the ICA, McCahon is coupled with Jiri Kolar. Kolar is a Czech, born in 1914, who comes straight out of the rich central European strain of Surrealism.

His work may look experimental now, but hardly more so than it would have done in the year of his birth, when the Dadaists were already preparing their anarchist revolution. But he uses all the Surrealist techniques of collage and object-finding with extravagant and often hilarious invention, and adds a few of his own, such as "crumpling", which involves crumpling and then selectively straightening an image to produce something dreamlike and weird.

The show is called "The End of Words", presumably to emphasize a connection with McCahon. But all it really shows, encouragingly, is that Surrealism is alive and well and living (since 1980) in Paris.

Fudging the issues

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

SHEILA Hayman's nudging title for the *40 Minutes* documentary on BBC 2 last night, "Killer Bimbos on Fleet Street", would have got a male television producer heavily fined in any court of chauvinism. The programme itself had all the coherence and credibility of an economics leader on a tabloid Page Three.

The idea was, presumably, to look at the influence of such female editors as Eve Pollard of the *Sunday Mirror* and Patsy Chapman of the *News of the World* on a traditionally male province of sex and scandal. The programme, however, went off in so many other directions, from nightclub interviews to a survey of newspapers' television commercials, that it was rather more difficult to locate the editorial line or theory than it would be to find a crossword in a nudie magazine.

When the Press is being increasingly well covered by such programmes as Raymond Snoddy's *Hard News*, and the BBC 2 restoration of *What the Papers Say*, it was depressing to find that the *40 Minutes* idea of a newspaper joke is still to photograph the breasts of an editor while she is talking about male stereotyping.

The best story was lost, somewhere in the middle of what looked like a series of advertisements for smutty weekends. It appears that the editor of the *News of the World*, Patsy Chapman, is the daughter of a housewife who once caught a local headmaster removing underwear from her washing line. All human life is there: rather as though the editor of the *Church Times* had once almost drowned in a font during baptism.

This surely should have been the theme to follow through in all its biographical and editorial complexity. But instead of that, after about another 15 seconds it was off into yet more aimless shots of shoulder-pads and long red-fingered nails.

As Chapman said, during the closing credits, "We don't have much of a conference here"; and it looks as though the BBC producer and reporter had even less than that. They have not, apparently, yet noticed that Fleet Street is no longer where the newspapers live.

MARYA

by Isaac Babel
Adapted by Christopher Hampton
from a translation by Michael Glenny & Harold Shukman

MARVELLOUS

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Irrepressible: Miriam Karlin with Paul Barber in *Not Fade Away*

One-man double act

MARILYN KINGWILL

Jeremy Kingston

The Guv'nor
Young Vic Studio



Skilful: Christopher Godwin limbs stuck out like a starfish, as the guilty Mathias in *The Bells*.

How authentic the movements are is hard to say, though mimics abounded, long survived him and must have preserved the essence of the man's sensational style. Godwin's Irving's Wolsey's fare-well speech succeeds in being genuinely touching, and his frantic cry as Mathias pushes the Jew's corpse into the lime kiln manages as no other I have heard to make the hairs on the neck twitch.

Irving died on the steps of a Bradford hotel in his loyal valet's arms. As the show's pretext we are asked to imagine ourselves looking into the attic of the house where Walter now lodges. There, once a year on the anniversary of the death, he rummages among mementoes and drinks a glass to his master's memory.

It is a simple and effective pretext: centrally placed are the trunks, pier-glass and other impediments of an actor's life.

Godwin as Walter hobbles awkwardly between these, abandoning anecdotes halfway through as old costumes or photographs catch his attention.

When he strays into the black-border surrounding the attic,

the midway space between the private life and his public, Godwin becomes Irving, ramrod-stiff as Tennyson's Becket (dreadful poetry) or, features distorted,

as no other I have heard to make the hairs on the neck twitch.

For Walter's character, drawing

on his own imagination, Godwin has created a decent, Clive Dunnish old codger, his talk flavoured with Edwardian slang, and gives him a development within the play.

It seems only right that Irving's valet would know he sweated twice as much as normal when playing Macbeth. If Peter Craze's able direction can cut the noise of the console switch starting the sound cues, the illusion of a glimpse into our theatrical past will be even more persuasive.

Saved by sour note

THEATRE
Benedict Nightingale

Not Fade Away
Stratford East

THIS is the kind of disarming comedy the Theatre Royal has made its own. It can be accused of sentimentality, calculated pathos,

releasant right-mindedness, and nostalgia for the days when Cockneys were plucky folk. It can be said that Barrie Keefe, its author, so fudges an unhappy ending that it can almost be seen as happy. Yet it would have to be a pretty hardline curmudgeon who altogether resisted this play.

Consider the story. The 79-year-old Grace Webb, once married to as humane a communist as the East End has seen, escapes from the old people's home in which her son, a smarmy suburbanite, long ago dumped her.

Back in Forest Gate, she finds the houses transformed into concrete slabs, the pubs packed with loveless yobs and venomous racists. She has only to step into the street to find a Rastafarian bleeding after an unprovoked assault.

But his pain is her opportunity. No sooner has she stuck a plaster on his head, and unwittingly shared a joint with him, than she is scolded in his flat.

Indeed, she has become mannish to the children of his sister, who is the good-hearted prostitute in modern guise: in Angela Bruce's performance, elegant and unaffectedly caring, as if simulacra

numerously appearing on the cover of *Vanity Fair* and running a Women's Help Centre.

"I've never been so happy," repeats Grace, by which point the audience should surely have been screaming in collective agony, so much sweetener had been injected into its mental teeth. Why were we not doing so? How had Keefe got away with theatrical dentistry so shamelessly?

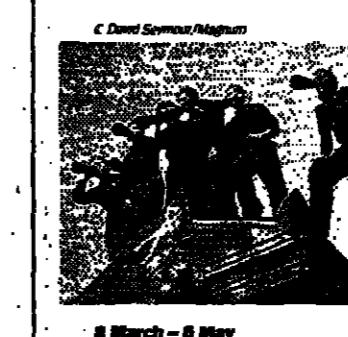
Partly because he never lets things drift for long without introducing a quirky line or amiably offbeat moment. There is fun to be had from the collision of his well-meaning lady Candise with West Indian culture; and Keefe finds it. But the main reason for the evening's success, such as it is, is that irrepressible veteran, Miriam Karlin. If Grace is bearable, it is because of her mutinous body-language, her belligerent, truculent manner.

Somehow she provides acid enough to temper the sugar. One could call her performance a lemon, and mean it as a compliment. Yet neither she nor Philip Hedley's skilful direction can excuse a conclusion which at first was a reminder that Keefe once was the author of *Sus*, *Barbarians*, and other exercises in gritty realism.

It would be wrong to reveal much more than that a blend of police and social workers wreck her friends' Utopia. Enough to say that loss is instantly forgotten, grief becomes defiance, and Karlin is gamely leading a chorus in Desmond Dekker's "You Can Get It If You Really Want".

Even by Stratford East standards, wasn't that going it a bit?

Extended to 13 May
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مكتبة الأصل

INTERIORS



Pattern of the future: lino artist Jennie Moncur, with her floor at London's Institute of Contemporary Arts ... "I can produce the images without compromising my designs"

Lino climbs up off the floor

Lino: How was it for you? Cold and smelly, cracked and curling, redolent of schools, hospitals and boarding houses? Lino was the favoured floorcovering of parsimonious bursars and rapacious landladies. Lino was knelt upon by the chilled, bruised knees of little boys and girls. Lino was buffed 'till it gleamed and the same little boys and girls slipped and sprained their ankles when they broke the rules and ran.

So why has Britain's last remaining linoleum manufacturer decided to launch its first domestic range for 20 years next Monday? Because, says Mandy Morrison from *House Beautiful*, lino now has "street cred". Because, says Israel Watson, an interior designer, lino is "really, really Fifities, hence it's style today. And it's really ready if it's got sea shells on."

The Victorians kept lino behind the green baize door, where it was laid to keep "downstairs" hygienic and healthy. Without cleanliness you, your family and your pets might die. "When Prince Albert died in 1861," explained David Prout, architectural adviser for The Victorian Society, "the rumour spread that he had died from smells.

If Queen Victoria had laid more lino, maybe he would have survived."

Mrs J.E. Panton, the author of *From Kitchen to Garret*, was the housewife's mentor. "Mrs Panton told them to be very firm and to have lots of lino otherwise their servants would rebel, their roast beef would be overcooked and their husbands grumpy," Mr Prout says.

During the first half of this century the good news spread like wildfire throughout Britain and America. There was no better floor covering upon which to drop your man's Yorkshire pud or your mom's apple pie. Lino looked as if it was here to stay.

It wasn't. Production peaked in the years between 1948 and 1959. In

the words of Coco Chanel, "fashion is made to be unfashionable": the tufted carpet was born and lino died. "Fitted carpets were brought into the realm of the less affluent and with them came a change of fashion," explains Roger Strugnell, spokesman for Forbo-Nairn, the company which is relaunching lino. The company which is relaunching lino.

Polishing lino, in the post-servant age gave us bad backs.

The trend-setting purchasers of

floor covering laughed out loud at lino. How could they? They with

Nicola Murphy takes a shine to an old favourite

their vinyl tiles designed to let elephants and Magnus Pyke make big messes in adverts, they with their striped pine floors and their Amico for Filippo staff to glide over. Lino waited, biding its time in the playrooms. Now, in the Nineties, the Fifities are back — "there's never a new fashion but it's old," said Chaucer.

But the fact that lino has rolled back out of the ping-pong room, can not be due simply to Fifities nostalgia. Not all of us have climbed into our zoot suits. There is another explanation. The biggest fashion trend at the moment is green.

Lino is made from what greenpeaks describes as self-generating raw materials — linseed oil, cork, wood flour from soft woods, resins and jute. The cork is waste from the wine industry in Portugal — which means that we can drink more, secure in the knowledge we're helping make more lino, and saving the world. "It is a product of the age,

and it is biodegradable," says Mr Strugnell, who has been in the business for 42 years.

In fact, lino is so green it even keeps itself clean. The linseed oil continues to oxidize even when the lino is laid and, according to Mr Strugnell, it kills germs. Forbo-Nairn's own research indicates that while each square metre of supposedly well-maintained carpet contains 1000 grammes of dirt consisting of animal skin, human skin and carpet mites, lino only has three grammes. Muscle-bound housewives used to take out their frustrations by beating carpets on the days they weren't thwacking their offspring; now they have Calleandics and psychotherapy, air-conditioning and, as a result, dirty carpets.

So come back that linseed smell, the scent that once dominated Kirkcaldy, the linoleum capital of the world. This was the smell that in 1913 inspired one Mrs George Smith, the daughter of a minister in Ayrshire, to pen: "For I ken masey by the queer smell/that the next stop's Kirkcaldy". The Kirkcaldy company was founded by Michael Nairn in 1847. More than a century later, it merged with another famous lino manufacturer, William

Sons, of Lancaster, and became Forbo-Nairn in 1985. The locals still believe linseed is the healthiest smell in the world and that it prevents colds. They wouldn't recognize Kirkcaldy without its smell. They would get off the train in Dunfermline.

Forbo-Nairn has invested £2.5 million in preparation for the launch next week. So it must be expecting good returns. At £20 a sq m, lino is not cheap. Has the company, as a cynical member of Friends of the Earth suspects, simply seen an opening in today's green market for a product which, unlike vinyl, is not based on petrochemicals? Karen Christensen, author of *Home Ecology*, published by Arlington Books, thinks not. "There's been so much bandwagoning going on that when someone has a really useful product it's now in danger of being overlooked. Lino has always been, in stock at some stores."

But lino will never really be the same again. It is no longer slippery, it is not going to curl up at the corners; outside institutions it probably won't smell of disinfectant and it certainly won't always be the colour of brown Windsor soup.

Short notes on Canada

Vanity sent me off to Canada this week. A letter arrived on heavy buff stationery informing me that I had won an award that would be presented in Toronto and I jumped. The award was for "Women Who Make a Difference" and I was selected for the media category. I suppose that's marginally better than being selected for a woman who makes no difference. When I arrived in Toronto a motley group of people turned up at my hotel room with cameras and lights to make "your video". The interviewer had a sheet of paper with 12 questions. The first question was: "Why do you write?"

I rather liked that because it gave me a chance to cannibalize George Orwell's thoughts from his essay: "Why I write". As I recall, he said that whenever his writing lacked a political purpose, it was full of humbug. Just as I was getting into the swing of this, the producer of "my" video explained that the total airtime for the 12 questions was 40 seconds, so could I be brief?

In spite of this rather unnerving start, my short visit to Canada has been useful. Life in Canada is akin to living in a genteel lunatic asylum, run by the nice inmates. The Canadian deficit per capita is nearly the largest in the western world, though the country's defence budget is lower per capita than that of Liechtenstein. Its citizens are taxed at every turn, and wander the streets asking where the money goes.

The answer may be glimpsed in reports such as that of the Ontario government's Waste Policy Adviser, who sadly told a meeting this week of the Ontario government's Recycling Advisory Committee that Canadian citizens had failed to heed its advice. Despite a three and a half year programme, backed by quotas, fines and monitoring committees, Canadians still choose to drink their Coca-Cola from recyclable tin cans, rather than the government-blessed refillable glass bottles.

Canada's Progressive Conservative Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, currently commands about 17 per cent of the electorate's support, which could make one sanguine about Mrs Thatcher's current position. But Canadian politics are extremely volatile, because they lack any ideological basis. In Britain, it takes considerable soul-searching to make the jump from the Conservative party to Labour or vice versa, since, when doing so, one has to abandon basic attitudes and assumptions.

Since neither the Liberal Party nor the Progressive Conservative Party in Canada has such a framework for their policies, the difference between them hinges on the personalities of their leaders. People feel quite free to switch parties every election and do so in what are really nothing but out-and-out popularity contests. The only exception to this is the NDP, Canada's ersatz socialist party which, unlike the other parties, has some class basis and is supported by a core of trade unionists and intellectuals. It has maintained pretty much the same percentage of the vote (about 18 per cent) all its life.

Whatever the party in power, one of the constants of Canadian life is its impeccably progressive social attitude. The envelopes in which citizens get their income tax forms assure recipients, in the two official languages, that: "The envelope contains a minimum of 50 per cent post-consumer recovered material."

This progressivism attained new heights, I thought, the very day I arrived. On my desk: *The Lawyer's Weekly* carried a long report on the most recent Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision.

The case in question involved a chap named James Ede, who is not quite 4ft 9in high. He had wanted to join the Canadian Armed Forces, Oh, Canada.

THE GOOD FLOOR GUIDE

LINOUM costs vary, depending on the preparation of the sub-floor and any special effects, for example borders in contrasting colours, inlays and unusual designs.

Creative effects are the specialty of the stockist First Floor Limited, of London, which has its own cutting facilities to make patterns, and offers inset stripping to create borders.

First Floor stocks the Forbo-Krommelen Marmoleum range of sheet lino, comprising 36 colours in three thicknesses, made by Forbo-Nairn's parent company in The Netherlands.

First Floor also offers the Forbo-Krommelen Marmoleum range of sheet lino, comprising 36 colours in three thicknesses, made by Forbo-Nairn's parent company in The Netherlands.

Forbo-Nairn's Imported Marmoleum range of sheet lino. All these come in a marble effect and plain.

The company also stocks two ranges of lino tiles — Lincslex, in 15 colours and Armourtiles, in 16 colours.

Anyone looking for a really eye-catching effect might contact Jennie Moncur, a graduate of the Royal College of Art. Ms Moncur, who has designed flooring for London's Institute of Contemporary Arts and the Oxford branch of Whistlers, the fashion chain, also undertakes designs, such as the smoker room she covered in oak leaf designs for Janet Street-Porter.

Using Forbo-Nairn's linoleum, her decorative abstracts comprise big, bold, fluid shapes designed to fit specific locations.

"There are few products on the market you can shape," she says. "Using lino means I can produce the images I want without compromising my designs."

Why choose lino? Linoleum continues to mature after it is laid, so a 10-year-old floor will be as durable as a new one.

● Strong sunlight will not fade or harm the material.

● Seams can be welded to produce a jointless finish.

● Modern lino is easy to clean, requiring the same polishes as other resilient floor coverings.

● Caring for lino

● Clean when necessary and at least once weekly.

● Vacuum (not beater-bar type) or brush with a soft broom to remove surface dirt. Then clean with a solution of neutral detergent such as washing-up liquid. Add only

a few drops to a gallon of warm water, since excessive use of detergent can leave an invisible film. Thoroughly rinse by mopping with clean water.

● When dry, apply two thin coats of an acrylic emulsion polish. (Forbo-Nairn recommends Johnston's Kleer or Reckitt & Colman's Set.) Allow first coat to dry before applying a second coat.

● Forbo-Nairn's new domestic Armourtiles 20 Natural Linoleum range is available in 10 pastel colours. For details of local stockists, contact Forbo-Nairn Retail Linoleum, PO Box 1 Kirkcaldy Fifes, KY1 2SB (0592 261111).

● DLW offers two domestic lino ranges: Marmorette, with a choice of 34 colours including primaries, and Colorlette, a 12-colour range of soft pastels. Available from independent retailers nationwide. DLW Flooring, 38c Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX2 6LS.

● Customized lino flooring, First Floor Limited, 174 Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6 2UQ (01 736 1123).

● Jennie Moncur, 189 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3UW (01 407 5310) or Contemporary Textile Gallery, 10 Golden Square, London W1 (01 439 9071).

Nicole Swengley

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SOCIETY

Twinning as an academic exercise

On Monday Durham University will open a new college — funded by a Japanese institution to give Japanese students a taste of the British way of learning. George Hill reports

The cherry trees, blossoming pink and white all over the city of Durham this week, are helping to mitigate the impact of culture shock for 111 Japanese students who have arrived there as pioneers of a new experiment in cross-cultural education. Faced with English weather, English cooking, and hordes of large boisterous Westerners deluging them with benevolent advice, the young visitors remain unflinchingly determined to be delighted by everything they see.

"Potatoes!" exclaims one, appreciatively identifying a distinctive item of British cuisine as she sits down to lunch at the long refectory table of a Durham college. On the college greenward, at the daisies and dandelions (*tamposo*), as for the cherry trees they are like a breath of home.

The students are the first batch to come for a year of study as virtual members of Durham University, in a unique partnership between Durham and Teikyo University in Tokyo. On land leased from its hosts, Teikyo has endowed a college outpost thousands of miles from home, to give some of its second-year undergraduates a taste of a system of higher education very different from their own. In future years, their numbers will rise slightly to a permanent level of about 500.

For Teikyo, the Durham outpost is an astute move. The main strength of its campus on the outskirts of Tokyo ("Teikyo" means "Imperial City", as distinct from "To-kyo", or "Eastern City") is in medicine and pharmaceuticals; the new initiative will help broaden its base in the humanities.

For Durham, the link with a wealthy and well-regarded Japanese university, which is funding the operation, helps

to strengthen its international image, and reinforce the resources of its already considerable Oriental Studies department.

Unlike most British universities, Durham has land to spare (within 15 minutes walk of the city's superb historic centre), and has been able to make it available without risk of cramping provision for its own future needs.

The Japanese students' lives will be integrated as far as possible into the routines of their host university. Their courses of study — in history, sociology, international culture and English as a foreign language — will generally be different from those followed by their British counterparts, and they will live in separate, newly built dormitories.

But they will take their meals in college, and most of their teachers will be Durham lecturers. The students in each of the six colleges to which they are attached have elected a "Teikyo rep" to take charge of liaison between the two groups. Because Durham's summer term has not yet started, a group of students came back early as volunteers, to show the visitors round. Many of the newcomers will be spending their first weekend with local families.

Only 36 hours after their arrival at a strange university in a strange continent, the students were still busy finding their feet. From their dress, one might guess them to be a party of sophomores from an American campus. Although they have done six years of English studies at school and college, few of them are entirely at home with the language. "It is a new thing for us to be able to practice conversational English," says Miwa Maruoka, who is one of the more confident English speakers. "I understand the grammar, but it is sometimes difficult to understand the idiom."

Visiting England for the first time, Miwa does not seem

to be serious about the language. "I see no sign that there will be serious acclimatisation problems," says Henry King, bursar of the new college. "My immediate impression is that they are far more bright-eyed than I would have been if I had made the journey in reverse, into a completely different culture. The Durham students are being a great help — I see a great deal of youthful dynamism on both sides, and that is a very valuable raw material for the future of this institution."

The first lecture-room experiences for the students are a series of sessions to explain quirks of the British way of life like the immigration laws, the banking system and the college fire regulations.

Mr King conducts a delicately phrased lecture on health and safety, dealing as tactfully as possible with awkward but unavoidable topics like alcohol and sexually transmitted diseases.

There are signs of a cultural divide at a session where officers of Durham police reinforce his warnings with a lecture about theft and burglary (a distinction which seemed to defeat the students' command of English idiom) and the old British custom of getting uproariously drunk on a Saturday night in the centre of Durham, which was best avoided at such times. The officers' bluff and jovial style



Learning our ways: some of the first batch of Japanese undergraduates at Durham talk to Eric Burdis, the university's liaison officer

ON A CAMPUS IN BRITAIN... WITH JUST 15 STUDENTS TO A CLASS

Lessons in learning from West to East

Only a tiny percentage of the estimated 5,500 Japanese students in Britain attend British schools and colleges.

The majority attend the five Japanese schools and six Saturday-morning schools — for pupils who go to British schools during the week. There is also a Japanese university in Britain and two Japanese women's finishing colleges, in Winchester and Cheltenham. In 1979 there were only two full-time Japanese schools in Britain and one Saturday school.

At the Japanese primary, junior high and high schools in this country, 3,982 pupils study a Japanese curriculum and are taught mostly in Japanese. The university — Gyosei International College, which has been open a year and is affiliated with

Reading University, has 100 Japanese and two Japanese-speaking Chinese students. About 60 per cent of the students — aged between 18 and 20 — are male.

The first year of the four-year course is an intensive course in English. After that, having become fluent in English, the students concentrate on business administration and cultural studies.

Of the 12 lecturers, only five are from Japan and the students learn in both Japanese and English.

Most of the students come from Japan to attend the university in order to benefit from the smaller classes — a maximum of 15 students. In Japan, classes of 500 are not unusual. "There, the universities go in for mass-production," the university's bursar, Tadahisa Wada, says. The tuition fees

are £4,000 a year and the students live mainly in the 13 halls of residence belonging to Reading University. Asked whether Gyosei's standard of education was higher than in Japan, Mr Wada replied: "I hope so."

The total Japanese population in Britain, according to figures released last October, amounts to 37,335. Of the students in Japanese schools and colleges, 4,225 have parents based in Britain on assignments which normally last between three and five years.

Japan's vice-consul, Etsuji Arai, estimates that the number of Japanese students in this country is rising by approximately 15 per cent each year.

Of the total of 67,500 overseas students studying in British universities and other publicly financed

bodies in the United Kingdom in 1988 (the latest figures available), only 793 were Japanese. Of these, 310 were doing postgraduate work at universities (201 men and 109 women) and 233 were university undergraduates (106 men and 122 women).

In the polytechnics and colleges there were 17 postgraduates (nine men and eight women) and 102 undergraduates (13 men and 89 women), while further education establishments had 136 students (47 men and 89 women).

There are no figures available for Japanese students attending independent schools and colleges in Britain, including those at private English-language colleges which cater for half-a-million foreign students.

Sally Brompton

is well-adapted to catch the attention of a school classroom, but seems to leave the students dumb with terror at being plunged into what is apparently a sink of rampant crime. The officers themselves ruefully acknowledge that their presentation would need to be rethought.

The students will work in the Lafcadio Hearn Centre, a purpose-built block next to the university's Oriental Museum, among lawns dotted with oriental stone lanterns. It is decorated with hanging calligraphic scrolls, and its central courtyard has been laid out as a traditional Japanese garden, with gnarled rocks breaking the surface of a sea of white gravel. Hearn was a writer whose books about

Japan helped to interpret the country to the West a hundred years ago. Some of his rather miserable schooldays were spent in Durham, a connection which may have helped to catch the attention of Teikyo a few years ago, when it was looking for a British university in its plan for a partnership.

We chose Britain because culturally Japan has a great interest in the United Kingdom," says Professor Yasuo Kobayashi, the principal of Teikyo's Durham college. "From the last century, when Japan began to open up to the outside world, the contact between our two countries has been very intimate."

The Japanese educational system is an intensely competitive one, both for students vying to secure a place at the university, which is most highly regarded by prospective employers, and for universities competing to lift themselves into a notch in a pecking order of more than 500 institutions. The majority of which are funded mainly from their customers' tuition fees.

Relations between teachers and students in Britain are also more equal and informal, and this may be one aspect of the Durham experience that the newcomers may find hard to get used to. "They will be unused to the family feel of this university, but I do not see it as a problem, because once the initial feeling of unfamiliarity is overcome, it will be a positive strength," says Mr King.

The classroom demeanour of the students suggests that getting over ingrained habits of deference and decorum in class may be a harder problem for them than making contact with their contemporaries. But 36 hours after their arrival on the campus, it is early days.

Magic on the menu

THE TIMES
ON SATURDAY
IN COLOUR

IN THE four years Jonathan Meades has been *The Times* restaurant critic he has never awarded the ultimate accolade of 10 stars to any of the hundreds of premises he has visited. That will change tomorrow, when he reports in the *Saturday Review* on an encounter with superlative cooking. "Eating in the conservatory," he says in part, "one feels rather like Mrs Shilling's hair must often have felt. The assault by floral abundance is total. This room is very green, summery, relaxed. The staff is composed of young Frenchmen with telepathic gifts. Their ability to anticipate the customer's request is uncanny. Intimidatory tactics are not on the menu here. Children are treated with amiable respect, and there don't seem to be any rules about what you should or shouldn't wear... The harsh fact is that this restaurant is the most expensive in Britain. Two are unlikely to spend less than £180 à la carte; by sticking to the daily menu and drinking down, they could get out for about £70. But that would mean missing some of the best dishes to be had anywhere."

Also in the *Review*, Brian James investigates the truth behind a legend of injustice which has clung for 200 years to the man who claims he designed the first lifeboat. And Jane MacQuitty introduces our summer wine offer: a delicious case which she has selected for just £39.50, delivered free to your door.

Founded in 1966, Teikyo is an expanding supplier in this intense educational market, and now has three campuses serving 16,000 students, as well as technical colleges, high schools, junior schools and kindergartens. It is possible today for a child to go through his or her entire

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"Outstanding", *English Christian*; "A great lover of the bible", *Catholic Herald*; "Skillful use of persuasive eloquence", *The Monthly Record of the Free Church of Scotland*; "Uncompromisingly faithful to scripture; deeply moving", *Expository Times*; "Fire of the ancient Hebrew prophet", *The Life of Faith*.

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BUSINESS LETTERS

Sting in abolishing certificates

From E. H. Rackley

Sir, A number of points have been made in your columns and elsewhere, relating to problems that will arise if the proposed abolition of share certificates takes place. May I poke another stick in this little hornet's nest?

Should I die before I sell them, the person turning over my personal papers will find two documents indicating my ownership of 660 shares in British Gas. These shares can thus be valued and added to the rest of my vast fortune for taxation and distribution, and their ownership relinquished or transferred according to circumstance, with the minimum of trouble.

If they succeed in abolishing share certificates, the Stock Exchange will presumably be prepared to run a computer check upon notification of the death of any potential investor, man, woman or child, in the country, in order to ascertain whether or not a stock holding in that name exists.

The Inland Revenue is likely to require some such enquiry to be obligatory, and it will certainly be necessary in the interests of beneficiaries of

any estate. The Stock Exchange will need only to distinguish the holdings of John Smith from those of his son, or grandson, of the same name and recorded at the same address.

Inclusion in the computer of the investor's National Insurance number will take care of that, provided he lived most of the time in this country and had a number; and, if he did have one, that someone can remember what it was... all this assumes, of course, that what they have in mind is a centralised and consolidated register of all companies and shareholders; if not, the brouhaha does begin to furore a little.

It is not for fun that British Gas, on the back of these unnecessary pieces of paper, feels it worth while to print in large letters "This share certificate is a valuable document which you should keep in a safe place" and to say very much the same thing twice on the front.

Yours faithfully,
E. H. RACKLEY,
23 Redland Close,
Bromsgrove, Worcs.
April 12.

Taxing times

From Mr R. V. Fox

Sir, Tax due on all my income as a basic rate taxpaying pensioner is withheld from my occupational pension.

In filing my P60 for 1989-90, just received, I compared the tax taken with that paid 40 years earlier in 1949-50.

The amount taken has multiplied by a factor of 140. When I look at my gross income in the same two years, I find the multiplier for that is but 51.

My allowances now, as then, are those of a married man, the only difference being that I now have a small mortgage interest relief.

Were City analysis serious when they suggested tax rates should have been increased in the March Budget?

Yours sincerely,
RAYMOND V. FOX,
Lanters,
15 Braywick Road,
Maidenhead,
Berkshire.
April 11.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on (01) 782 5112.

Water tariffs

From R. D. Winyard

Sir, In the article on water meter trials (Business News, April 16), Mr David Gadsbury, of Southern Water, offers no sympathy for pool owners, or, by implication, for gardeners on the Isle of Wight.

He rightly comments: "They must pay the true cost

of water." However, he omits to say that Southern Water's regional water tariff, excluding sewerage charges, is 31.4p per cubic metre, which is presumably the true cost.

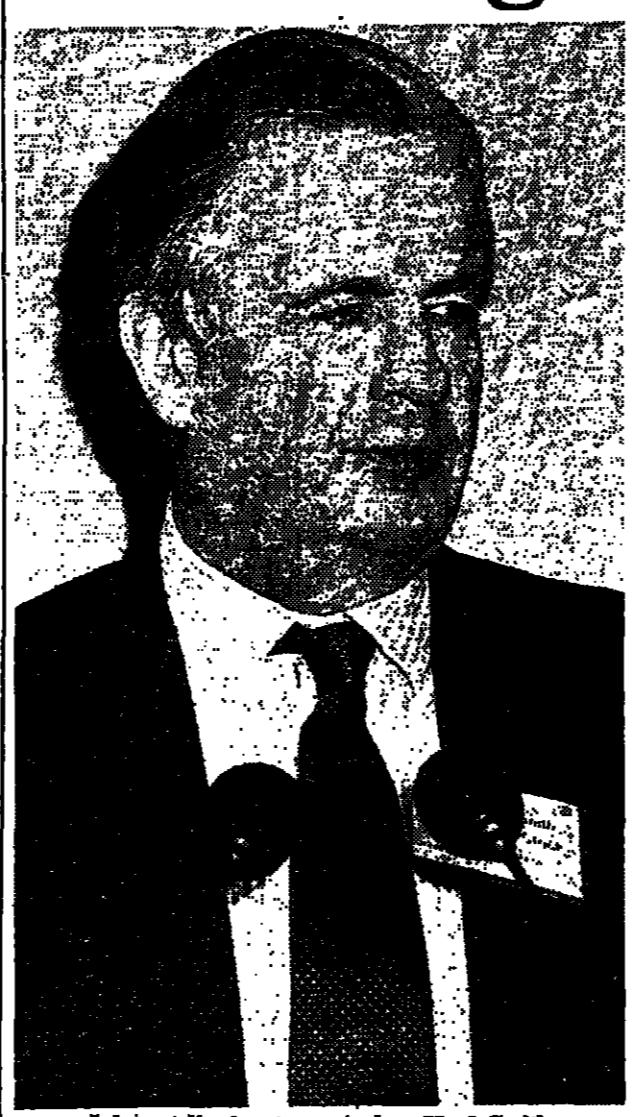
At that level of charge, few pool owners or gardeners would object.

What does cause concern is the manipulation of, and experimentation with, tariffs

during the trials, and that the consumer has to pay through the nose while they continue.

Yours faithfully,
R. D. WINYARD,
Woodview,
Youngwoods Way,
Alverstone Garden Village,
Sandown,
Isle of Wight.
April 17.

Inherent disadvantages: Andrew Hugh Smith



INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

Switching savings into shares

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

THE Government and the City yesterday blamed each other for the difficulties in expanding share ownership of the pound. "If this is not done, interest rates will remain high and the hurdle for returns on equity investment, risk-adjusted, will be insufficiently attractive."

Mr John Redwood, the Corporate Affairs Minister, urged the City to make share dealing faster, cheaper and simpler, but Mr Andrew Hugh Smith, the chairman of London's International Stock Exchange, called for a shift in economic fundamentals, requiring changes in Government objectives and policy.

Both were addressing an Institute of Economic Affairs Conference - Wider Ownership, the Next Steps.

Mr Hugh Smith identified the high level of home ownership - a key policy of Mrs Thatcher's Government - as being "directly in competition" with the goal of wider share ownership.

Another obstacle was the fixed interest deposits offered by banks and building societies, which were very attractive compared with returns on ordinary shares, particularly after adjustment for risk.

To switch savings flows into shares the Government would have to alter the relative value of returns on investments and recognize the trade-off between individual property ownership and share ownership, Mr Hugh Smith said.

It would also have to appreciate that high interest rates tend to favour the low-risk

deposit-type investment. The problem challenge lay in stabilizing and maintaining the value of the pound. "If this is not done, interest rates will remain high and the hurdle for returns on equity investment, risk-adjusted, will be insufficiently attractive."

London's costs could be cut by computerizing back offices and moving some activities from expensive City locations to cheaper premises, it was suggested. The Securities and Investments Board, the financial services watchdog, also had to press home its attack on overcostly and overcomplicated regulation.

The Government's twin policies of privatization and encouraging share ownership had led to one in four adults holding shares, against one in 15 in 1979.

Mr Redwood said the Government's actions to promote share ownership had been so successful that they had created a "major social trend." But he also saw a large business opportunity in share ownership that need not entail undue risk for individuals.

He noted that wider ownership provided firmer underpinning for the large liquid London markets and that small shareholders were often long-term investors.

It could reduce political tensions originating from misperceptions of the City as a rich man's casino and an institutional club by showing it to be the "people's capital market."

City 'must seek to restore trust in institutions'

By Our Economics Correspondent

THE chairman of the International Stock Exchange called on the City to urgently seek solutions to the problem of how to restore investors' trust in institutional investors.

The alternative, said Mr Andrew Hugh Smith, was that solutions, perhaps arbitrary ones, would be forced on the City by government intervention.

While it was not easy to identify the extent of industry's distrust of its institutional investors, "we can be sure there is a problem," he told the conference in Westminster.

"It cannot be healthy that the gaps of understanding, the level of distrust of the City and particularly of the investors community, should continue at this high level."

He listed the familiar complaints of investors letting down management of the companies they owned, of their "short-termism" and their obsession with maximizing shareholder value.

While coming out firmly against moves to restrict take-over bids, Mr Hugh Smith said that if the complaints about institutional investors' short-termism were justified,

Hong Kong may go it alone over airport plan

From Lala Yu, Hong Kong

THE Hong Kong Government reaffirmed its commitment to the HK\$127 billion (£10 billion) airport plan amid growing concern that the project could be torpedoed by Peking.

Sir Piers Jacobs, the Financial Secretary, said he had yet to convince China of the viability of a new airport, but was confident that Hong Kong could finance the development regardless of Chinese support.

"If it came to the pinch we

WORLD MARKETS

Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)
The World (free)	712.3	-0.4	-15.6	0.6	-11.4	1.0	-13.8
EAFFE	135.1	-0.4	-15.6	0.6	-11.4	1.0	-13.9
(free)	1241.4	1.0	-20.3	0.7	-15.4	1.6	-18.7
Europe (free)	122.4	1.1	-20.6	0.7	-15.6	1.7	-18.3
Europe (free)	734.6	-1.0	-3.4	-0.7	-3.6	-0.4	-1.5
Ntn America	505.6	-0.8	-6.0	-0.2	-4.1	-0.2	-4.1
Nordic (free)	1497.4	-0.4	-3.8	0.1	-3.8	0.2	-1.8
Pacific	2374.7	-0.4	1.0	0.1	0.8	0.2	3.0
Far East	4025.4	2.8	-29.8	1.8	-22.3	3.2	-28.4
Australia	3022.3	-0.5	-13.0	-0.5	-8.2	0.1	-11.2
Austria	2086.0	-2.4	40.6	-1.9	42.0	-1.8	43.4
Belgium	915.8	-0.1	-7.0	0.4	-7.6	0.5	-5.1
Canada	507.3	-1.8	-15.5	-1.5	-13.5	-1.2	-13.8
Denmark	1335.5	0.0	1.5	0.5	0.3	0.6	3.6
Finland	102.0	-0.9	-11.6	-0.5	-11.5	-0.3	-9.8
(free)	140.1	-0.9	-6.0	-0.6	-5.9	-0.3	-4.1
France	838.0	-0.5	3.8	0.1	3.1	0.1	5.9
Germany	961.6	-1.4	4.8	-0.9	5.8	-0.8	6.8
Hong Kong	2370.7	0.3	6.9	0.8	6.9	0.9	9.1
Italy	391.7	-1.3	1.6	-0.7	0.7	-0.7	3.7
Japan	4224.6	2.8	-31.5	2.0	-23.7	3.5	-30.1
Netherlands	889.7	-1.1	-4.8	-0.6	-4.2	-0.5	-2.9
New Zealand	87.1	0.2	-15.5	0.3	-11.7	0.8	-13.8
Norway	1516.1	-1.6	12.9	-1.2	13.8	-1.0	15.2
(free)	2652.1	-1.4	13.5	-0.9	14.4	-0.8	15.8
Sing/Malay	1834.6	-0.7	-3.0	-0.3	-2.4	-0.1	-1.0
Spain	216.8	-0.3	-8.4	0.0	-9.5	0.3	-6.5
Sweden	1613.8	0.0	-6.0	0.4	-7.8	0.6	-6.1
(free)	2315.1	-0.1	-4.4	0.3	-4.2	0.5	-2.1
Switzerland	858.4	-0.7	-6.1	-0.7	-8.1	-0.1	-4.2
(free)	131.7	-0.6	-5.7	-0.6	-7.7	0.0	-3.8
UK	547.6	-1.1	-10.2	-1.1	-10.2	-0.5	-8.3
USA	458.1	-0.7	-5.2	-0.1	-3.3	-0.1	-3.3

See Local comment ... Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

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BUSINESS

FRIDAY APRIL 20 1990

SECTION 2

City Editor

John Bell

THE POUND

US dollar

1.6450 (+0.0090)

W German mark

2.7553 (+0.0175)

Exchange index

87.1 (+0.4)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1712.2 (-20.4)

FT-SE 100

2184.7 (-21.2)

USM (Datastream)

138.39 (-0.35)

Market report, page 30

A Fisher surges

ALBERT Fisher, the food distribution group, saw pre-tax profits surge 53 per cent from £19.9 million to £30.5 million in the six months to end-February, on turnover of £497 million, up 35 per cent. The interim dividend rises 20 per cent to 1.5p.

Tempus, page 24

Payout rises

International Business Communications (Holdings) made pre-tax profits of 29 million (£13.3 million) for the year ended December. However, net earnings rose from 13.4p to 16.5p a share. A final dividend of 3p (2.8p) makes 4.5p (4.1p) for the year.

Tempus, page 24

LEP advance

LEP Group, the freight, security and property concern, made pre-tax profits of £26.5 million (£18.5 million) in the year to end-December. A final dividend of 4.25p makes a total of 6p, up from 4.75p.

Tempus, page 24

STOCK MARKETS

New York Dow Jones 2728.15 (-4.73)

Tokyo Nikkei Average 29945.41 (+696.36)

Hong Kong Hang Seng 3067.67 (+15.32)

American CBS Tendency 1183.8 (-1.4)

Sydney ASX 1495.1 (-1.3)

Frankfurt DAX 1874.0 (-10.89)

Brussels 6122.88 (+1.04)

Paris CAC 544.45 (-9.34)

Zurich Ska Gen 588.3 (-4.0)

London FT-A All-Share 1065.20 (-9.80)

FT-500 1182.12 (-11.09)

FT-Gold Miners 85.50 (-0.05)

FT-Govt Secs 75.53 (-0.03)

Recent issues

Page 21

Chasing prices

Page 21

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:

High Point 382.4p (+12.0)

FALLS:

Speyhawk 168.4p (-32.0)

Derwent Holdings 725.0p (-10.0)

Penzance 715.0p (-20.0)

Thorn Corp 685.0p (-20.0)

Pearson 562.4p (-10.0)

News Corp 512.4p (-10.0)

MJ Gleeson 647.4p (-32.0)

Standard Chartered 515.0p (-12.0)

Bass 922.4p (-12.0)

BCCI 515.0p (-12.0)

Burd 610.0p (-12.0)

Micro Focus 552.4p (-15.0)

Northumb 125.4p (-11.0)

Burmah 607.4p (-11.0)

Euronet Units 585.0p (-10.0)

UK Land 330.0p (-10.0)

Glen 785.0p (-10.0)

Controlling Beecham 478.5p (-10.0)

Pardis 375.0p (-10.0)

Closing prices

Page 21

Bargains

Page 21

SEAO Volume 491.5m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 15%

3-month interbank: 15.2-15.5%

3-month call: 14.2-14.5%

US Prime Rate: 10%

Federal Funds: 8.5%

3-month Treasury Bills: 7.80-7.78%

30-year bonds: 9.6-9.5%

CURRENCIES

London: New York

E: \$1.6135

S: DM1.7553

E: SwFr1.2436

S: FF15.6355

Yen: 257.44

E: Index: 281.1

E: 1.1756

S: DM1.7553

E: ECU1.348152

S: SDR1.258194

GOLD

London Fixing:

AM \$376.50 pm-\$375.75

close \$376.00-\$376.50 (\$228.50-229.00)

New York:

Comex \$376.80-\$377.30

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jun) \$17.15 bbl (\$16.45)

* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Bank: Bank

TEMPUS

Albert Fisher retains that tasty look

FOR a company whose shares ranked among the best performers of the 1980s, Albert Fisher has had to work hard at times to keep its institutional shareholders sweet.

At least, its £180 million fund-raising at the turn of the year is now accepted by the City for the imaginative and efficient exercise that it was, even though a nose or two may have been put out of joint at the time.

There are few greater pacifiers than performance, of course, and a 53 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £36.5 million halfway through its year better than sustains the phenomenal growth record of Fisher under Mr Tony Millar, its genial executive chairman.

Underlying organic growth was 23.6 per cent, and converts into a 23.4 per cent improvement in earnings at 4.5p a share. Once again, such is the spread and balance of the group's distribution chain across North America and Europe that the odd upset, like heavy rain in Spain's citrus farms or margin pressure in the tiny European frozen food business, has negligible impact on the overall figure.

Increasing US demand for pre-prepared salads and such-like and the new frontiers opening in eastern Europe, where Fisher will buy £50

million of blackcurrants and strawberries this year, point the growth areas of the future.

However impressive the trading results though, it is the balance sheet that underlines Fisher's strength just now. December's rights issue, taken up by 92.7 per cent of shareholders, has left the group with net cash of £80 million, rising to an expected £100 million by the year-end.

Underpinning it all is Corporate Partners, the US investment house whose emergence as underwriter to the rights issue ruffled the odd institutional feather last Christmas. CP has 5.1 per cent of the equity, is locked in for three years, and has permission to raise its stake to 20 per cent, but no further.

In a lacklustre market Fisher shares held steady at 118p, where, even though a pre-tax £7.3 million looks comfortably within range for the full year, suggesting earnings of almost 9p a share, they still command a significant premium. Given the group's evident defensive qualities and CP's readiness to buy at 110p, it looks more than justified.

IBC

LIKE a man running up an escalator which is fast travelling in the opposite direction, International Business Communications (Holdings)



TONY MILLAR: steering a 1980s star to new heights

runs well at the operating level and in the year ended December saw operating profits up from £14.76 million to £16.58 million. But with interest charges up from £1.43 million to £7.57 million, the group runs out of breath at the pre-tax level, where profits in 1989 came down from £13.3 million to £9 million.

The trick is that following the buy-back at 150p of 40 per cent of its equity, the earnings base has shrunk. This sees net

earnings for 1989 rise - from 13.4p to 16.5p a share, which allows IBC to keep faith with shareholders and pay a final dividend of 3p (2.8p), to make 4.5p (4.1p) for the year.

The debt burden is a mixture of capped sterling but free market guilder loans totalling £57.5 million, and a £10 million overdraft - and debt is the see-saw on which IBC shares will continue to swing while interest rates remain high.

Should interest rates fall by 1 percentage point, IBC earnings stand to benefit by 1.4p a share. But interest rates and market sentiment are not yet running in IBC's favour, and the shares, which have underperformed by 30 per cent in the past nine months, and by 18 per cent in the past three, stood at 69p yesterday. After balance sheet write-downs, the current price is probably twice the net asset value.

Debt reduction remains an obligation, and a priority, but that in turn constrains acquisition plans. But while the Fleet Street Letter "upsheet" business ticks over, at least the business planning and the conference division remain on growth tracks.

A p/e of 4.2 based on published 1989 earnings and an historic yield of 8.7 per cent merely serve to emphasize the gambles.

LEP Group

A CURIOUS beast is the LEP Group, and the lack of anything quite like it is not the least of the factors holding back the share price.

The company is perceived, wrongly, as a British-based transport group. But in the annual figures to end-December, 57 per cent of operating profits came from its burgeoning security business in the US, the now 100 per cent

owned National Guardian Corporation, which is in third or fourth place with 7 per cent of the huge US market.

There is a significant property arm, centring on the little understood LEP House development close to St Paul's, in London, an associated company, but where LEP has the effective rights to all profits.

Most curious of all, there is a tiny offshoot making AIDS testing equipment. But the initial core of the group is its worldwide freight forwarding business, now planning further inroads into Eastern Europe but still struggling to resurrect its US business.

The recovery so far boosted operating profits growth in the distribution business by 70 per cent to £15.2 million last year, and there is room for further growth as the market favours the larger players.

Pre-tax profits came in at £26.5 million, after £18.5 million in 1989, and the company is probably on course for £35 million this year. The City remains concerned about the 106 per cent gearing, although much of the borrowing is fixed and overseas.

The shares, down 4p at 148p, sell on a cheap-looking less than 8 times future earnings. But beware; they are now 25p or so below their level a year ago, and the market will probably have to get a better handle on LEP before they improve.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Peugeot Talbot up to £135m as sales boom

PEUGEOT Talbot reached record pre-tax profits of £135.3 million last year, when, cashing in on last year's record new car sales, the Coventry company increased its sales in Britain by nearly 10 per cent. It sold almost 140,000 cars, including imports from France, and its British market share rose from 5.7 per cent in 1988 to 6 per cent.

The Ryton plant, which now exclusively produces the Peugeot 405 saloon, turned out 30,000 more cars last year than in 1988 to reach 107,000, receiving thousands for export. Last year was the first full year of a return to double shifts at Ryton. The company hopes to produce 120,000 cars this year, to make it the fifth of increased output. Peugeot Talbot, a subsidiary of Peugeot, of France, was producing only 20,000 cars at Ryton in 1985. By 1987, profits had risen to £13 million and the 1988 figure soared to £106.7 million.

Silvermines

BMW drops £30m plan

SILVERMINES, the Irish engineering to property group, reports pre-tax profits of £6.7 million (£6.91 million) for the year ended December, compared with £3.22 million, after a rise in investment income which stemmed from the sale of its holding in Tuskar Resources. Sales were £662.1 million (£636.5 million). A final £2.5p makes £4.4p.

BRIDON close to offer

BRIDON, the wire rope maker, expects to reach agreement on a proposal for a recommended all cash offer for the issued share capital and convertible bonds of NV Verto, a Dutch wire and synthetic fibre rope maker, for £27.2 million.

The offer will be at 3.25 guilders cash (F1.86 including the proposed 1989 ordinary dividend of F1.275 per share) for each F1.20 common share, valuing Verto's net assets at F162.5 million (£20.2 million), net of common share dividend. The expected offer of F1.100 for each F1.000 convertible bond values the bonds at a total of F121.8 million.

Loss deepens at S Daniels

Really Useful talks likely

S DANIELS, the food importer and distributor, made a pre-tax loss of £420,000 last year, against a £231,000 loss previously. Sales rose from £33.6 million to £34.2 million. The loss per share rose from 2.24p to 5.5p. The dividend for the year has been maintained at 2.5p. The canned food division was sold, resulting in a £2.7 million extraordinary credit.

Crean profits up 27%

JAMES Crean, the Dublin electrical products and food distribution group, reported a 27.8 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £221.5 million (£21 million) in the year to end-December, on sales 36.7 per cent higher at £154 million.

Fully diluted earnings per share climb from 14.76p to 15.33p. The final dividend is improved to £10.4765p (£19.3125p), making £17.6265p for the year, up 11.5 per cent on last year. The company said its principal subsidiaries all performed satisfactorily, as did International Aircraft Services, in which the group holds a 30.67 per cent interest.

Watchdog seeking a tale of woe

THE Unit Trust Ombudsman wants more people to complain. Find out why, and how this unit trust watchdog hopes to encourage investors to bring their problems, in tomorrow's Family Money.

Motorists visiting the Continent should take out car insurance cover before they

THE TIMES

STOCK WATCH

- Stockwatch gives access to the prices of more than 13,000 shares, unit trusts and bonds.
- Stock market comment: the general situation in the stock market can be obtained by ringing 0898 121220.
- Company news: items relating to company news can be obtained by telephoning 0898 121221.
- The prices of shares that are actively trading in the stock market may be obtained by telephoning 0898 121225.
- Calls are charged at 38p per minute during peak times, 25p during off-peak. Charges include VAT.

set off. Some insurers are offering a free service, while others charge for every journey across the Channel.

Package holidaymakers are to get extra help from tour operators in pursuing their claims. Find out the details in Family Money.

There is also advice to bank customers who pay by bank giro-credit to watch out for charges.

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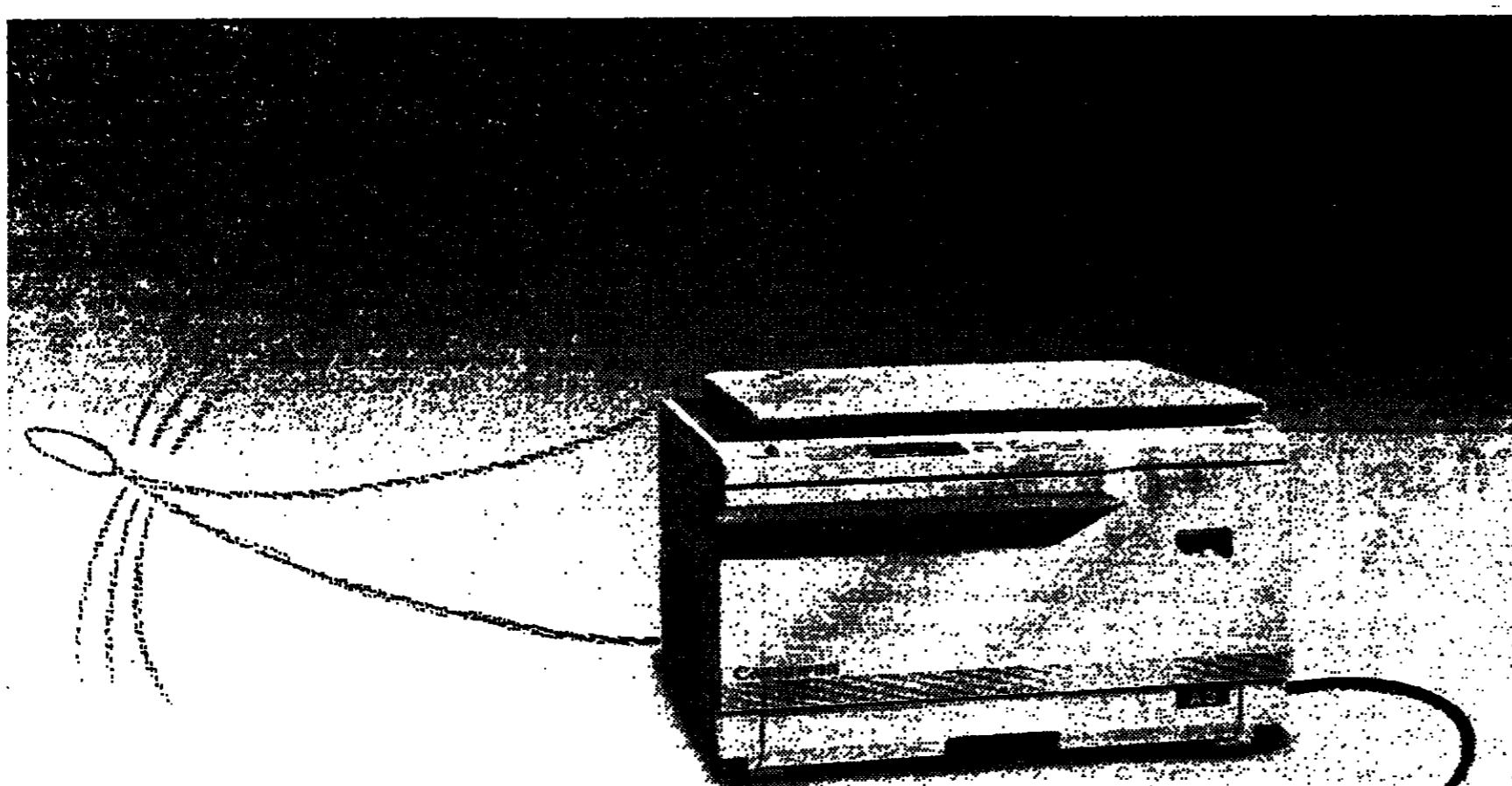
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EC initiative set to end Airbus subsidy dispute

From Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent, Toulouse

The dispute between Europe and America over the alleged \$10 billion in government subsidies paid to Airbus Industrie could be settled by the end of the month after a peace initiative by the European Commission.

Once that problem has been solved, British Aerospace will be told how much it will have to pay in compensation for the four-month strike at its plants. They halted delivery of wings for the Airbus jets and caused anger among the partners over the ensuing chaos.

The strike is estimated to have cost between \$180 million and \$200 million and BAE could technically be asked for 40 per cent under the terms of the consortium's rules. It is

more likely, however, that a compromise will be reached in which BAE will be asked to pay less, although the details have not yet been discussed by the Airbus board.

Hopes are rising on both sides of the Atlantic that a draft proposal drawn up in Brussels, to be discussed in Washington, could prevent a damaging trade war, which is threatening to wreck the success of Airbus in the US.

After years of recrimination, during which the US threatened to impose a penal duty on imported Airbus aircraft and Europe planned to retaliate against the sale of Boeing 747 jumbo jets, the situation has suddenly improved.

"Both sides have realized

that in many respects they are all grey and there are no black and whites," an official involved in the talks said. "It is ridiculous for old friends to fall out in this way when they face a more significant common enemy in Japan."

The EC plan involves rewriting two key clauses in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on civil aircraft sales, which would effectively "legalize" the Airbus launch and provide by Britain, West Germany, France and Spain.

It would also recognize America's right to provide hidden subsidies to its own aircraft manufacturers through research contracts placed by the Defence Department, which are then used in

civilian aircraft projects. Europe has insisted it cannot agree never to accept government launch aid but has accepted the need for greater openness and financial discipline.

Britain has regarded itself as innocently caught in the wrangle. The Government provided a one-off £250 million to BAE to help build the wings for the successful A320 jet, of which £50 million had to be repaid almost immediately and the remainder contained in high interest rates.

It is now expected that all the cash will have been repaid when 600 aircraft have been sold, in about three years. Thereafter the Treasury will reap profits on its investment.

Profits top £10m at Wm Low

By Gillian Bowditch

SCOTTISH stores group Wm Low has regained some of the credibility it lost when its £12 million deal to buy the northern Gateway stores from Isocellos fell through last month.

Mr James Millar, Low's managing director, revealed strong earnings growth in the six months to March with pre-tax profits up from £8.2 million to £10.5 million. Turnover rose from £157 million to £185 million and fully diluted earnings per share rose from 11.2p to 15.4p. The interim dividend is 2.5p, up from 2.1p.

Like-for-like sales growth in the first half was 8.7 per cent and is maintaining that level in the second half. Margins rose from 5.2 per cent to 6 per cent.

Mr Harvie Findlay, finance director, said there was no downturn in spending on food, and added that the emphasis on fresh foods and value-added products was continuing.

Two new stores were added in the first half and one was extended. No new stores are planned for the second half, but 10 will be opened in the next two years. The interest charge in the first half was £590,000 and £639,000 of



No red faces: James Millar, left, and Harvie Findlay enjoy improved profits

interest was capitalized, compared with £360,000 last time. Gearing is about 20 per cent and the capital-expenditure programme for this year is likely to be about £30 million.

Mr Christopher Blake, the group's chairman, said he was

disappointed not to acquire some of Gateway's northern stores, but added that he was not prepared to go ahead other than on terms beneficial to Wm Low.

There will be an extraordinary charge in the full-year

Offer for Sketchley is dropped

By Angela Mackay

THE battle for control of Walter Runciman, the shipping and security equipment group, took two abrupt turns last night with a higher and final cash offer from Avena, the Swedish group, valuing it at £63.4 million, and news that the Runciman management was in talks with a third party.

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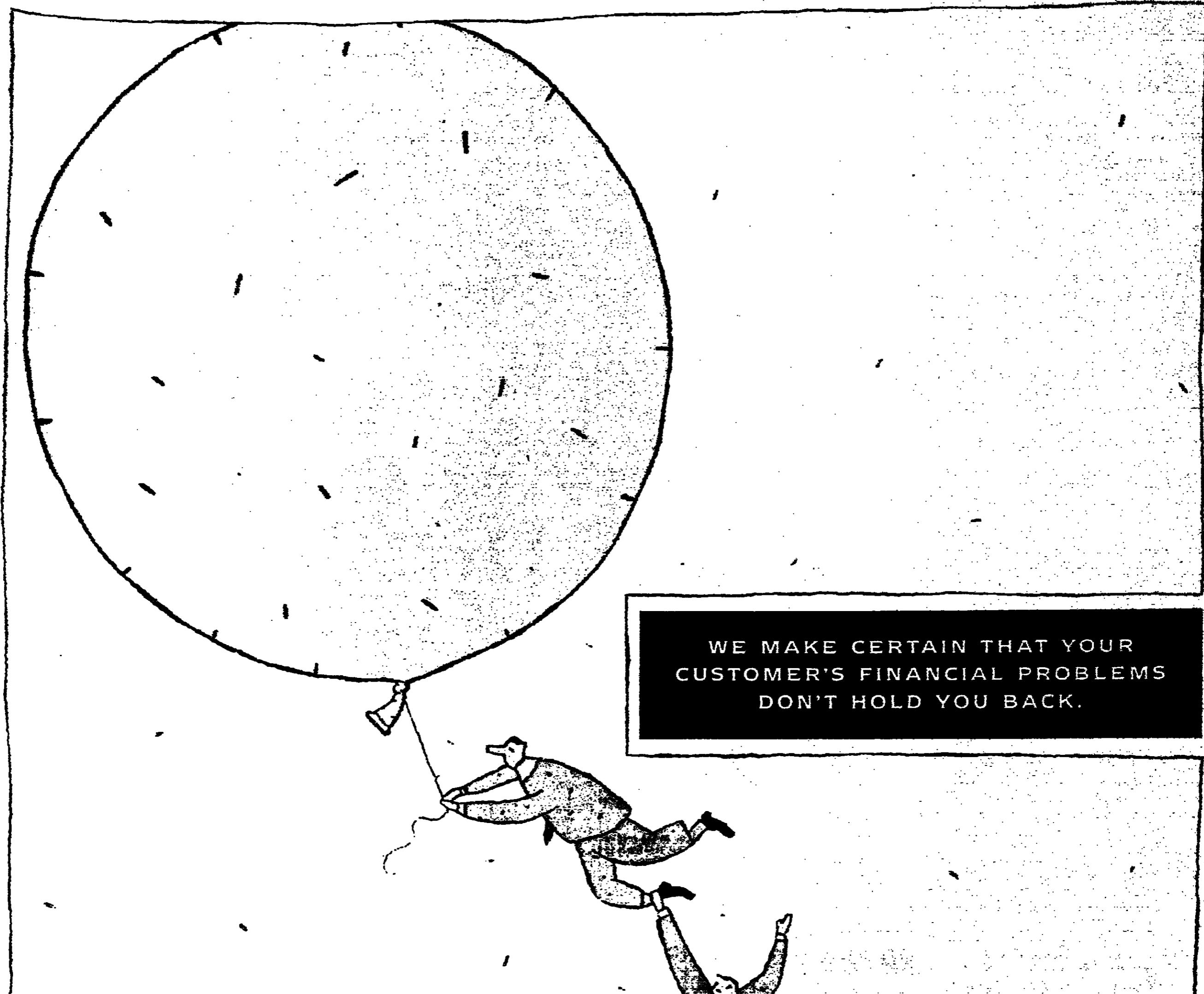
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TRADE INDEMNITY PLC

Laundering crackdown pressures institutions

By Quentin Cowdry
Home Affairs
Correspondent

BRITISH banks and building societies are likely to have to keep more detailed records of customers and transactions as part of a planned crackdown on the estimated \$85 billion of drugs profits laundered each year in Europe and the US.

This follows the publication of a report on money laundering compiled by banking and law enforcement officials from the Group of Seven nations and eight other countries, including Australia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden.

The illicit drugs trade in the US and Europe is producing an estimated annual turnover of more than \$120 billion for traffickers, with only about \$35 billion being consumed in costs.

The most significant of the report's 40 recommendations is that the international community should not follow the example of Australia and the US in imposing a legal duty on financial institutions to report to a central monitoring unit every transaction above a certain limit.

It urged instead that countries should adopt the kind of reporting system pioneered by Britain under the 1986 Drug Trafficking Offences Act, laundering is also an offence



Waddington: allows officials to seize suspect cash in the US, Australia, France, Canada, Italy and Luxembourg. Notably, however, it remains legal in both Japan and West Germany.

The report, whose recommendations are technically non-binding, but are seen to have a strong "moral" force, also called on all states to make laundering a separate criminal offence. Outlawed in Britain under the 1986 Act, laundering is also an offence

real identity of customers before setting up accounts and should keep better records of transactions.

It is understood the British delegation played a key role in thwarting US demands for mandatory reporting of transactions, pointing out that the American system was linked to more comprehensive money-laundering legislation than existed elsewhere.

The Treasury, which welcomed the report, said that it believed the British approach to be the "most cost effective and efficient." It added: "It will continue to be so as long as it enjoys the active support and co-operation of our major financial institutions".

None of the report's recommendations imply further legislative action by the Government, whose tough stance on drugs issues means that it will shortly be able to ratify the 1988 United Nations Convention on the illicit narcotics trade. Only four countries have ratified so far.

Last month, Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, unveiled a new counter-measure when he announced that police and Customs would be given the power to seize sums of cash at border points where they suspected the money stemmed from drugs trafficking.

Loss gives way to £2m profit for Hawtal

By Philip Pangalos

HAWTAL Whiting Holdings, the automotive design and engineering consultancy, revealed pre-tax profits of £2.17 million in the year to end-December, compared with a loss of £262,000 last time.

Group turnover advanced by 61 per cent to £49.7 million following worldwide expansion.

Earnings per share stood at 16.9p (11.4) and the dividend was raised to 4p (0.1p) for the year.

Interest payments rose from £9.5m to £1.78 million, with gearing at about 49 per cent. There is an exceptional debit of £258,000 due to a prior adjustment relating to 1985.

Mr John Whitecross, the chairman, said the extensive measures taken over the last two years to return the group to profit have been successful. The build-up of volume business with new customers and markets in many parts of the world was beginning to reduce exposure to any single market.

Mr Whitecross added that, as in 1989, some orders were deferred early this year, calling for a reduction in manning. However, the order book is well in advance of this time last year. The shares climbed 8p to 183p.

Great Southern reaches £3.54m

By Martin Waller

A COMBINATION of a lower-than-usual death rate and higher-than-expected borrowings kept pre-tax profits at Great Southern Group, the undertaker, to £3.54 million in the year to end-December, compared with a loss of £262,000 last time.

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Liberty beats the squeeze

By Gillian Bowditch

Liberty, the retail group with a Regent Street flagship store, is bearing up well despite the fall in consumer spending. Pre-tax profits for the year to January rose from £6.45 million to £7.42 million on sales of £85.2 million, up from £72.7 million.

Earnings per share rose from 24.4p to 26.3p and the final dividend is 4.55p making 5.95p, up from 5.04p.

Liberty Japan, a joint venture with Seibu department stores, reported strong profits in the first full year of trading. In Britain, retail profits fell by £1 million to £1.9 million but the wholesaling division increased profits by £1.3 million to £4.6 million. Demand for Liberty fabrics is still strong.

The US loss rose from £193,000 to £203,000. Mr Harry Webbin, Liberty's chairman, said prudent management and the overall strength of the group's business make it less vulnerable to difficult trading conditions.

He said: "The level of retail sales and orders in the wholesale and printing companies in the opening weeks of the current trading year show an encouraging improvement over the same period last year."

The voting shares were unchanged at 435p and the non-voting shares were also static at 225p.

Miskin edges ahead despite turnover slip

MISKIN Group, the contracting, property development and plant hire company that came to the Unlisted Securities Market last April, lifted pre-tax profits from £252,000 to £259,000 in the year to end-January.

Turnover slipped from £7.02 million to £6.8 million. Earnings per share fell from 6.9p to 4.5p, with adjusted earnings reduced from 5.1p to 4.5p. There is a final dividend of 1.375p (nil).

Mr Jeffrey Goodman, the chairman, said that current prospects were favourable. With a considerable amount of work already contracted, turnover in the construction and building division should rise substantially. However, slow residential property sales had affected the division's profit levels, and would continue to do so in this first half.

Interest payments rose from £94,000 to £158,000. There is an extraordinary loss of £45,000. The shares were unchanged at 36p.

Standard ordered to pay £2.5m in Tokyo back tax

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

BRITAIN'S Standard Chartered Bank has been fined about 650 million yen (£2.5 million) in back taxes by the Tokyo tax authorities in connection with an undeclared sum of money earned from selling a plot of land in the city more than two years ago.

However, the bank says that it did nothing wrong, and a spokesman yesterday denied charges by Tokyo tax officials, reported prominently in the Japanese media, that the penalty had been levied because Standard Chartered tried to conceal \$9 million received from the sale.

The bank also said that although the fine has only just come to public light, it made provision for the payment in its 1989 accounts.

Newspapers in Japan quoted tax officials as saying that Standard Chartered sold 6,150 sq m of residential land in central Tokyo to Haseko Corp, a construction company that specializes in apartment blocks, for more than Y20 billion in July 1987.

However, under limits imposed by Tokyo local government to dampen the capital's land price boom, the sale price of that plot of land was capped at Y18.9 billion.

Tax officials allege that Standard Chartered and Haseko drew up a contract saying that Haseko paid only that

figure, but the construction company then paid the balance of \$9 million, separately from a secret fund.

The *Yomiuri* newspaper, Japan's biggest-selling broadsheet, said: "According to a Haseko source, Haseko actually bought the land for Y20.41 billion. But the face price of the contract was reduced to Y18.9 billion, which was the maximum legal price. Haseko paid the balance to Standard Chartered Bank by a back-door route."

Officials said that Standard Chartered failed to pay tax on the \$9 million, but a bank official said yesterday that this was because it had thought that it was not liable for tax in Japan, not because it was trying to do anything tricky.

He said that the bank received the \$9 million from Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, which was willing to pay this premium for the right to handle the land sale. That Samuel Montagu was later reimbursed with \$9 million by Haseko was a matter between Samuel Montagu and Haseko.

Although Standard Chartered had received the money, the route had been an indirect one. The bank had not considered it liable for tax in Japan, but the tax office had deemed it income resulting from the land sale.

Prague company move

Prague CZECHOSLOVAKIA's parliament has approved laws permitting private enterprise and the establishment of joint stock companies.

The private enterprise law stipulates that anyone can establish a business without

seeking official permission. There are no limits on the number of employees or capital involved in a firm.

It also permits the "reasonable" participation of foreign capital in the Czechoslovak economy.

(Reuters)

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT 1,198	CU 980	Lloyds 5,032	Sears 2,383
Abbey Nat 6,558	Cookson 1,455	Loyd's 150	Sedgwick 306
Alico 1,545	Courtmills 678	Luton 760	Shetland 3,000
Amstrad 1,655	Dalgety 1,000	Lynton 220	Shire 40
ASB 11,455	Davidson 619	Manpower 325	Slough 306
AB Foods 68	ECC 343	M&S 3,224	Smith & N 1,481
Argyll 578	Enterprise 148	Marshall Cr 511	SK Beach 1,882
BAA 2,440	Ferranti 4,707	M&G Group 1,422	SMI 112
BEST 2,722	Flame 7,000	Mars 2,002	Smith WH 112
BTR 1,922	FRG 1,258	M&P 552	Smiths Int 3,006
BAT 1,905	Gan Acc 295	Midland 763	STC 2,882
Barclays 3,344	GEC 3,740	New West 1,000	Stobart 2,000
Bass 1,000	Globe Inv 1,579	NIH Food 2,048	Stowes 1,229
Beefer 474	Global 101	P&O 413	Sun Alliance 380
Bencoid Ind 101	Glynned 838	P&G 1,027	Sun Life 12
BICC 1,441	Granada 1,080	Pearson 949	T & N 316
Blue Circle 1,834	Grand Mat 3,400	Pemberton 3,000	Teal Group 2,003
BOC 1,184	Guar 'A' 1,052	Poly Peck 1,551	Tarmac 641
Boco 1,012	Gulf 576	Prudential 807	Tata & Lyle 90
BPI 1,013	H&C 1,822	Racial 2,612	Taylor Wimpey 2,134
Br Aero 578	Hillside 978	Racial Tele 730	TSB 2,175
Br Airways 2,857	Hamm 'A' 229	Rothschild 503	Thames Water 1,016
Br Com 1,405	Hanover 13,200	RMC 307	Thom Emi 316
Br Com 3,114	Hawker 207	Redland 143	Transtel 1,305
Br Land 168	H & C 165	Reed 1,388	THF 1,682
Br Petrol 6,255	Hawker 645	Reuter 322	Thomson 1,282
Br Steel 5,952	Hilldown 2,509	RICOH 338	Unilever 403
Br Telecom 1,634	HILL 1,850	RITZ 520	Univser 187
Bunzl 1,201	Hillside 471	R-Royce 988	United Bt 2,217
Bunzl 655	Hockliffe 922	Rothman 'B' 476	Uld News 39
C&W 1,521	Hogg 563	Royal Bank 641	Wadco 571
Cadbury 528	Lamson 843	Ryder 750	Walters 1,885
Calor 91	Ladbrokes 859	Ryman 750	Watson 1,885
Carton 2,877	Lancs 424	Rutter 2,738	Wells Feb 265
Costa 3,754	Leeds 47	Scoot & N 2,469	Wimpey G 802

RECENT ISSUES

ABF Leisure (125p)	CS Hedges 116	108
ABG Group (140p)	Creamer 161	99
Abstrac Euro (100p)	Courtmills 98	105
Angus Pic 201-21	Dalgety 107	151
Beta Global (100p)	Davidson 88	151
Stephan Higgs (1p)	Davidson 24-2	151
Buckingham Nw 76	Davidson 76	151
Courtaulds Textiles 260-3	Davidson 76	151
Dekota Gp Nw 44	Davidson 76	151
Eurooney 343	Davidson 76	151
F&C German 128-1	Davidson 76	151
Fastforward 100p	Davidson 91	151
First Prop 100p	Davidson 97	151
French Prop 100p	Davidson 97	151
Garments Emerg Pacific 54	Davidson 97	151
German IT 89-1	Davidson 97	151
Goldsmith 125	Davidson 97	151
Henderson, Highland 100p	Davidson 125	151
Imi Cables 100p	Davidson 108	151
Midland Radio 100p	Davidson 108	151
Novartis 100p	Davidson 108	151
RENTAL 28-2	Davidson 108	151
(Issue		

BUSINESS LETTERS

Sting in abolishing certificates

From E. H. Rackley
Sir. A number of points have been made, in your columns and elsewhere, relating to problems that will arise if the proposed abolition of share certificates takes place. May I poise another stick in this little hornet's nest?

Should I die before I sell them, the person turning over my personal papers will find two documents indicating my ownership of 660 shares in British Gas. These shares can thus be valued and added to the rest of my vast fortune for taxation and distribution, and their ownership relinquished or transferred according to circumstance, with the minimum of trouble.

If they succeed in abolishing share certificates, the Stock Exchange will presumably be prepared to run a computer check upon notification of the death of any potential investor, man, woman or child, in the country, in order to ascertain whether or not a stock holding in that name exists.

The Inland Revenue is likely to require some such enquiry to be obligatory, and it will certainly be necessary in the interests of beneficiaries of

any estate. The Stock Exchange will need only to distinguish the holdings of John Smith from those of his son or grandson, of the same name and recorded at the same address.

Inclusion in the computer of the investor's National Insurance number will take care of that, provided he lived most of the time in this country and had a number, if he did have one, that someone can remember what it was... all this assumes, of course, that what they have in mind is a centralised and consolidated register of all companies and shareholders; if not, the brouhaha begins to furore a little.

It is not for fun that British Gas, on the back of these unnecessary pieces of paper, feels it worth while to print in large letters "This share certificate is a valuable document which you should keep in a safe place" and to say very much the same thing twice on the front.

Yours faithfully,
E. H. RACKLEY,
23 Redland Close,
Bromsgrove, Worcs.
April 12.

Taxing times

From Mr R. V. Fox
Sir. Tax due on all my income as a basic rate taxpaying pensioner is withheld from my occupational pension.

In filing my P60 for 1989-90, just received, I compared the tax taken with that paid 40 years earlier in 1949-50.

The amount taken has multiplied by a factor of 140. When I look at my gross income in the same two years, I find the multiplier for that is but 51.

My allowances now, as then, are those of a married man, the only difference being that I now have a small mortgage interest relief.

Were City analysts serious when they suggested tax rates should have been increased in the March Budget?

Yours sincerely,
RAYMOND V. FOX,
Lanters,
15 Braywick Road,
Maidenhead,
Berkshire.
April 11.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on (01) 782 5112.

Water tariffs

From R. D. Winyard
Sir. In the article on water meter trials (Business News, April 16), Mr David Gadsbury, of Southern Water, offers no sympathy for pool owners, or, by implication, for gardeners on the Isle of Wight.

He rightly comments: "They must pay the true cost

of water." However, he omits to say that Southern Water's regional water tariff, excluding sewerage charges, is 31.4p per cubic metre, which is presumably the true cost.

At that level of charge, few pool owners or gardeners would object.

What does cause concern is the manipulation of, and experimentation with, tariffs

during the trials, and that the consumer has to pay through the nose while they continue.

Yours faithfully,
R. D. WINYARD,
Woodview,
Youngwoods Way,
Alverstone Garden Village,
Sandown,
Isle of Wight.
April 17.

INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

Switching savings into shares

By Colin Narraway, Economics Correspondent

THE Government and the City yesterday blamed each other for the difficulties in expanding share ownership beyond what it has been over the past decade.

Mr John Redwood, the Corporate Affairs Minister, urged the City to make share dealing faster, cheaper and simpler, but Mr Andrew Hugh Smith, the chairman of London's International Stock Exchange, called for a shift in economic fundamentals, requiring changes in Government objectives and policy.

Both were addressing an Institute of Economic Affairs Conference - Wider Ownership, the Next Steps.

Mr Hugh Smith identified the high level of home ownership - a key policy of Mrs Thatcher's Government - as being "directly in competition" with the goal of wider share ownership.

Another obstacle was the fixed interest deposits offered by banks and building societies, which were very attractive compared with returns on ordinary shares, particularly after adjustment for risk.

To switch savings flows into shares the Government would have to alter the relative value of returns on investments and recognise the trade-off between individual property ownership and share ownership, Mr Hugh Smith said.

It would also have to appreciate that high interest rates tend to favour the low-risk,



Inherent disadvantages: Andrew Hugh Smith

deposit-type investment. The cost in Paris, Mr Redwood said the planned switch by the ISE to shares - a government-owned pension scheme under review - had to provide cheap and effective securities and not impose any disincentives to small investors.

London's costs could be cut by computerising back offices and moving some activities from expensive City locations to cheaper premises, he proposed. The Securities and Investments Board, the financial services regulator, also had to prove more lenient on investment regulation.

The Government's main policy of privatisation and encouraging share ownership had led to an increase in shareholding, especially in 1979.

Mr Redwood said the Government's actions to stimulate share ownership had been so successful that they had created a "major social benefit". But he also saw a huge investment opportunity in share ownership that needed to be addressed for individuals.

He noted that wider ownership provided funds for financing for the large and London's smaller and medium-sized shareholders making long-term investors.

It could reduce political tensions originating from the acceptance of the City and rich man's cause and no longer club by showing respect for the "people's capital".

City 'must seek to restore trust in institutions'

By Our Economics Correspondent

THE chairman of the International Stock Exchange called on the City to urgently seek solutions to the problems of the institutional investor and claimed on the importance of individual shareholding had declined.

The alternative, said Mr Andrew Hugh Smith, was that solutions, perhaps arbitrary ones, would be forced on the City by government intervention.

While it was not easy to identify the extent of industry's distrust of its institutional investors, "we can be sure there is a problem," he told the conference in Westminster.

"It cannot be healthy that the gaps of understanding, the level of distrust of the City and particularly of the investor community, should continue at this high level."

He listed the familiar complaints of investors letting down management of the companies they owned, of their "short-termism" and their obsession with maximising shareholder value.

While coming out firmly against moves to restrict take-over bids, Mr Hugh Smith said that if the complaints about institutional investors' short-termism were justified,

This might involve accepting that the institutions could become insiders for a time and that this would be part of the price. But it would allow investment managers to reach more informed conclusions about the long-term values of their investment and develop greater loyalty.

Hong Kong may go it alone over airport plan

From Leila Yu, Hong Kong

THE Hong Kong Government reaffirmed its commitment to the HK\$127 billion (£10 billion) airport plan amid growing concern that the project could be torpedoed by Peking.

Sir Piers Jacob, the Financial Secretary, said he had yet to convince China of the viability of a new airport, but was confident that Hong Kong could finance the development regardless of Chinese support.

"If it came to the pinch we

can still finance it with our own accumulated fiscal reserves," he said.

Hong Kong's reserves of HK\$71 billion will go a long way towards financing the airport, which will cost HK\$35 billion, and the road, transport and utility links, which would cost another HK\$42 billion. The HK\$50 billion port expansion plan, however, would have to be phased out if private funds were not forthcoming, said Sir Piers.

WORLD MARKETS

Index	Value	Daily change (+/-)	Yearly change (+/-)	Daily change (+/-)	Yearly change (+/-)	Daily change (+/-)	Yearly change (+/-)
The World (free)	712.3	-0.4	-15.6	0.6	-11.4	1.0	-15.2
SEAFE (free)	135.1	-0.4	-15.6	0.6	-11.4	1.0	-13.9
Europe (free)	1241.4	1.0	-21.3	0.7	-15.4	1.6	-16.7
North America (free)	127.7	1.1	-20.8	0.7	-15.6	1.7	-16.9
Nordic (free)	734.5	-1.0	-3.4	-0.7	-3.8	-0.4	-1.5
Pacific (free)	158.4	-1.0	-3.1	-0.9	-3.5	-0.4	-1.2
Far East	505.6	-0.8	-6.0	-0.2	-4.1	-0.2	-4.1
Australia	1497.4	-0.4	-3.6	0.1	-3.8	0.2	-3.8
Austria	237.4	-0.4	-3.6	0.1	-3.8	0.2	-3.8
Belgium	2783.5	2.8	-28.8	1.8	-22.3	3.2	-28.4
Canada	4025.4	2.7	-30.4	1.9	-22.8	3.3	-29.0
Denmark	507.3	-0.2	-1.8	-1.5	-1.5	-1.2	-1.8
Finland	1335.5	0.0	-1.5	0.5	-0.3	0.8	-3.5
Finland (free)	1020.0	-0.9	-17.5	-0.5	-11.5	-0.3	-9.8
France	140.1	-0.9	-6.1	-0.6	-5.3	-0.3	-4.1
Germany	839.0	-0.5	-3.8	0.1	-3.1	0.1	-3.9
Hong Kong	961.8	-1.4	-4.8	-0.8	-5.8	-0.8	-4.8
Italy	2307.7	0.3	-6.9	0.8	-6.8	0.8	-6.1
Japan	391.7	-1.3	-1.5	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-3.7
Japan (free)	4246.8	2.9	-31.2	2.0	-22.7	3.5	-30.1
New Zealand	855.7	-1.1	-4.9	-0.6	-4.2	-0.5	-3.8
Norway	1915.1	-1.6	-12.5	-1.2	-12.6	-1.6	-16.2
Spain	265.2	-1.4	-13.5	-0.9	-14.4	-0.8	-15.8
Sweden	1613.8	0.0	-8.4	-0.6	-8.5	-0.3	-8.5
UK	647.5	-1.1	-10.2	-1.1	-10.2	-0.8	-9.8
USA	455.1	-0.7	-6.2	-0.1	-6.3	-0.1	-6.3

* STN = Super-Twisted Nematic;

CFL = Cold Cathode Fluorescent Lamp



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* STN = Super-Twisted Nematic;

CFL = Cold Cathode Fluorescent Lamp

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Fax: (01) 741-6395

Hitachi Europe Ltd.

Trafalgar House

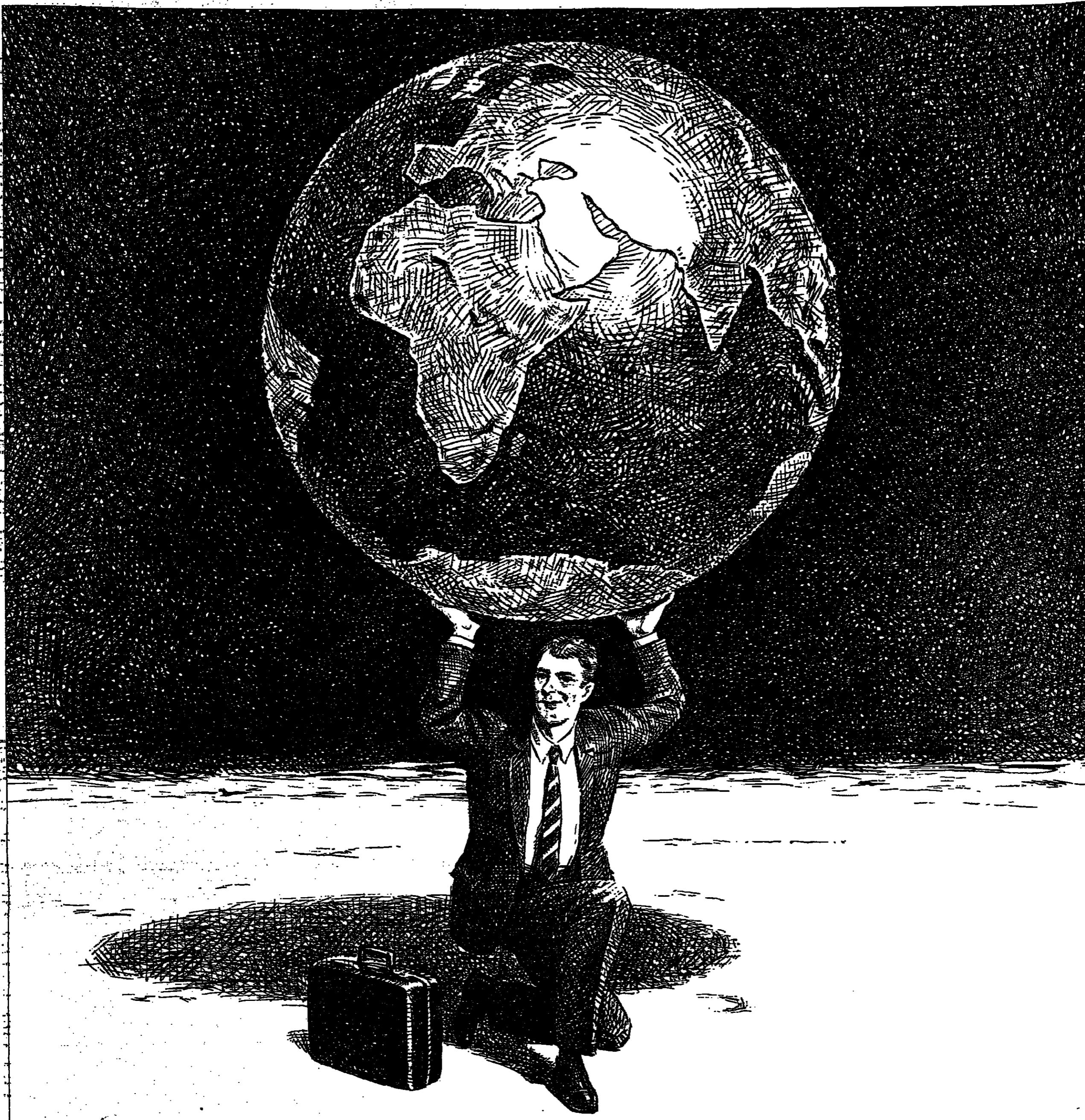
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STOCK MARKET

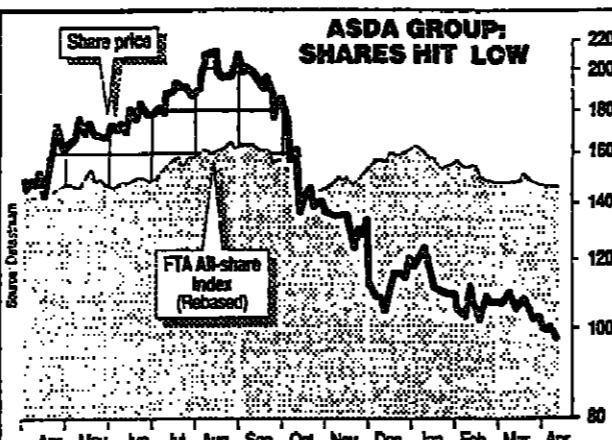
Falls in water shares set to level off

THE sharp fall in the water companies is showing signs of bottoming out, with one leading securities house claiming that fears of re-nationalisation, if the Labour Party wins the next general election, have been overdone.

Security Pacific Hoare Govett says the water companies are set to embark on a capital expenditure programme totalling £2.5 billion over the next 10 years. This is not something a Labour government would like to become readily involved in. Instead, Labour is likely to demand a bigger say in how the individual water companies set their price rises.

Share prices of the water companies have continued to lose ground since the start of February on political worries. The sector stands at a 46 per cent discount to the rest of the market, boasting a prospective yield of 8 per cent, against the average 5.5 per cent. Hoare says that if the Conservative party can do better than expected in next month's local elections, then the water shares may be due for a rally, with Anglian, Wessex and Thames heading Hoare's shopping list.

There were signs that the message was starting to get through yesterday with Anglian up 5p to 146p, Northumbrian 4p to 163p, Severn Trent 11p to 132p, South West 5p to 157p, Wessex 3p to 145p, and the water package £13.



to 1,712 on turnover of 49.1 million shares.

Government securities clawed back early falls of 5% to finish 1% better in thin trading.

In the drinks sector, Allied Lyons rose 6p to 542p after announcing the sale of its 41-strong Embassy Hotel chain to Jarvis Hotels for £202 million. Analysts are worried that Astra is about to prescribe to Lozex for a much wider range of ulcer complaints, which could provide Zantac, Glaxo's best-selling anti-ulcer drug, with increased competition.

SIC firmed 4p to 261p on revised talk that it is about to sell part of its holding in ICL, Britain's biggest computer and technology group. Fujitsu, of Japan, is said to be eager to

acquire a 50 per cent stake in ICL.

The appearance of a large seller depressed the price of Asda, down 6p to a low of 94p. A line of 1 million shares was placed in the market on Wednesday and a further 2 million were found a home for yesterday turnover reached 148p.

Abbey National fell 3p to 187p despite a buy recommendation from Kleinwort Benson, the stockbroker, which has upgraded its pre-tax profit forecast for the current year by £10 million to £615 million and claims Abbey is one of the more attractive investments in the banking sector.

The "big four" continued to lose ground. Barclays Bank shed 6p to 544p, after touching 548p, while Lloyds Bank lost 2p to 258p, Midland Bank 3p to 315p and National Westminster Bank 7p to 327p. There were also setbacks for Bank of Scotland, 2p to 112p, and Standard Chartered, 12p to 515p.

Speyhawk, the property developer, tumbled 32p to 169p amid fears that it was planning a rights issue. The company said it knew of no reason for the fall and said it has no need to raise fresh capital.

Selected Appointments, the USM-quoted employment agency, fell 3p to 47p as Ecco Travail Temporaire, France's largest employment agency, emerged with a friendly 7.46 per cent stake.

Michael Clark

Full-year figures from Ford Sellar Morris, the property company, are unlikely to disappoint. BZW is forecasting pre-tax profits of £25 million, against £14.1 million, with gearing falling below 100 per cent. The shares, down 2p at 112p, compare with a net asset value of 200p.

the FT-SE 100 index on the futures market, where investors have built up large bear positions, prevented the falls from being extended. Attempts at a rally proved short-lived, and, with another hesitant start on Wall Street, the index dipped below the 2,200 level to finish 21.2 points down at 2,184.7. The FT Index of 30 shares lost 20.4

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings Last Dealings Last Declaration For Settlement April 17 May 4 July 19 July 30

Call options were taken out on: 19/4/90 Amstrad, Aviva Petroleum, Brent Walker, British Gas, Caltex, Gadic Res, Globe Inv, Isopod, Ivernia, Lloyds, Nestle, J. Rothschild, Tusk Res.

Puts & Calls: Dewey Warren, Tusk Res.

WALL STREET

Bargain hunting helps Dow recover losses

New York

BARGAIN hunting helped shares regain part of their early losses, caused by a continuing fall in US bond prices.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 1.80 points at 2,731.08 after falling to 2,721, but declining issues led gains to a two to one margin.

• Hong Kong — The Hang

Seng index ended the session up 15.32 points at 3,067.57 in moderate trading.

• Singapore — The Straits Times industrial index ended the day 5.09 points lower at 1,529.07.

• Sydney — The All-Ordinaries index lost 6.1 points to 1,495.3.

• Frankfurt — The 30-share Dax index fell 10.89 points to 1,878.87.

(Reuters)

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

UNLISTED SECURITIES

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES												
		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100		2260.0	2217.0	2195.0	2244.0	6135	Three month ECU	89.29	89.32	88.32	89.32	225
Jun 90	2244.0	2244.0	2244.0	2245.0	100	Jun 90	89.35	89.37	88.27	89.28	105	
Sep 90						Sep 90	84.75	84.81	84.65	84.77	5200	
Three Month Sterling						Three Month Sterling	84.68	84.69	84.65	84.77	7013	
Jun 90	84.68	84.69	84.65	84.77	100	Jun 90	91.31	91.31	91.27	91.30	3700	
Sep 90	84.75	84.81	84.73	84.77	100	Sep 90	91.16	91.16	91.11	91.14	2445	
Three Month Eurodollar						Three Month Eurodollar	91.40	91.44	91.37	91.42	6520	
Jun 90	91.31	91.31	91.27	91.30	100	Jun 90	91.75	91.82	91.71	91.82	1194	
Sep 90	91.16	91.16	91.11	91.14	100	Sep 90	92.37	92.39	92.31	92.39	1194	
Three Month Gilt						Three Month Gilt	78.10	78.14	78.05	78.14	7022	
Jun 90	78.10	78.14	78.05	78.14	100	Jun 90	78.45	78.48	78.36	78.45	2022	
Sep 90						Sep 90	78.45	78.48	78.36	78.45	2022	
Three Month Govt Bond						Three Month Govt Bond	93.75	94.02	93.75	94.02	213	
Jun 90	93.75	94.02	93.75	94.02	100	Jun 90	92.21	92.25	92.21	92.25	4006	
Sep 90	92.37	92.39	92.31	92.39	100	Sep 90	92.75	92.75	92.71	92.75	1194	

THIRD MARKET

74 43 AGB Samar 40 45 ... 13 35 90
 74 American 55 55 ... 1 ...
 American Ins 55 55 ...
 Am Favers 55 55 ...
 75 75 ...
 75 75 ...
 Scheme I: 15.50 per cent. Schemes II & IV: 16.57 per cent. Reference: Rate Mar 1, 1950 to Mar 30, 1950. Scheme IV & V: 15.311 per cent.
 Premium per £100 £125 (22.50)
 Premium per £125 £50 (27.60)
 Spot Silver \$5.00-5.11 (\$32.00-3.110)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

		FTSE 100	Previous open/close	15007	Three month ECU	Previous open/close	15007
Jan 20	2206.0	2217.0	2206.0	6135	Jan 20	55.20	55.20
Feb 10	2214.0	2217.0	2214.0	6135	Feb 10	55.20	55.20
Mar 10	2214.0	2217.0	2214.0	6135	Mar 10	55.20	55.20
Apr 10	2214.0	2217.0	2214.0	6135	Apr 10	55.20	55.20

Month Sterling Previous open interest 13
14.65 14.65 14.65 14.67

Three Month Eurodollar Futures: core business

91.31 91.31 91.27 91.30
91.38 91.38 91.11 91.34

COMMODITIES

ICMS-LOR Group LONDON FOX

to COCOA AMT Futures
on May 866-865 Mar 829-828

... with very thin activity on the right ends plus good trade on fuel oil.

COFFEE AMT Fassette
May 677-675 Jan 711-719

15 Day May 16.50 +95 GAS OIL AMT Futures
17.10 +95 Jan 579-678 May 725-727 TIC
17.10 +95 Mar 600-605 May 729-732 Akademik PR
17.10 +95 May 620-625 May 733-736 1515.0-1525.0
WII Maxx

50 SUGAR G Czernow
50 FOB Vat 4180

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

SARLEY close 6/73 Vol 31
My 103.55 Sp 105.70 Nv 108.87

Jan 125.5-20.3 DEC 132.0-38.0
Aug 125.0-26.5 Feb 133.0-38.0
Oct 125.0-29.5

147 -4 73 58 265 | Dry cargo index 1436 -8 Vol.0

Hungary will rush in reforms

By Colin Narbrough
Economics Correspondent

DEMOCRATIC Forum, the centre-right party, set to form Hungary's first freely-elected government for 45 years, faces the daunting task of restoring a market economy.

Mr Jozsef Antall, Forum's leader, who is likely to become prime minister in a few weeks, is bent on moving fast towards a capitalist system after the decaying decades of command economics. However much the European Community baulks at the idea, Mr Antall also wants full Hungarian membership of the EC eventually.

Privatization, set in train under the old régime, is a priority. Mr. Antall has pledged to speed up the process of putting industry in private hands. After his election victory, he made clear that this process would have to be "controlled" saying Britain's experience could not be compared with what was needed in Hungary. But there will be no foot-dragging. The proportion of state ownership is to be cut from 90 per cent to 30 per cent by 1995.

Extracting the economy from the tangle of trade links with Comecon, the Soviet bloc economic alliance, presents problems, but Mr Antall wants to maintain good relations with Moscow.

Inflation, running at an annual rate of 25 per cent, threatens to create economic uncertainty. Forum plans for strict budgetary discipline – an alien concept to Communist economies. Without establishing confidence in



Now for the hard part: Hungary's Jozsef Antall celebrates Forum's election victory

their currency, Hungarians fear they will be unable to attract investment.

But the first task facing a new government will be determining the true state of the country's finances. Its hard-currency debt is estimated to exceed \$21 billion – the highest per capita in Eastern Europe.

For all its innovations, the economy is in a sorry state and is having to find \$3 billion a year to service foreign debt. Annual exports last year totalled only \$6 billion.

Mr Tamas Beck, the outgoing trade minister, told the outgoing journalists recently: "Our problem is that we need capital, but are having to export capital." Hungary would have to repay debts

while rebuilding its economy from its own resources. Joint ventures with the West would be necessary, but these have proved disappointing in the past. More than a thousand already concluded have only brought in \$300-600 million, excluding a couple of major projects. The concern is that many foreign investors have been using the tax breaks and legal gaps without bringing any benefit to Hungary.

But the protection against world market conditions once afforded Hungarian industry is fast disappearing. Inefficient industries now face the chill winds of competition.

Comecon trade allowed huge double surpluses to accumulate which were tantamount to interest-free loans to

boost private initiatives.

To safeguard against Hungarian companies filling their order books with East bloc business, Budapest has restricted licences for such trade. From next year trade with the Russians will be settled in dollars.

Dr Zsolt Erno, professor of economics at Budapest's Karl Marx University, is sceptical about Hungary's chances of overcoming its economic crisis quickly. He considers it crucial to boost export capacity and create the confidence in government to boost private initiatives.

Law Report April 19 1990 Court of Appeal

Diplomatic passports and exemption from immigration controls

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Bagga and Others
Before Lord Justice Parker, Lord Justice Gidewell and Lord Justice Leggatt
(Judgment April 11)

In order for a person to be a member of a diplomatic mission, s/he is exempt from immigration control under section 5(3) of the Immigration Act 1971. It was not necessary that his membership of the mission should have been notified to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

It followed that persons arriving in the United Kingdom to take up diplomatic appointments prior to notification having been given to the Foreign Office were not subject to immigration control on entry and the placing of an open date stamp by an immigration officer, or, alternatively, no notice giving or refusing leave to enter within 12 hours of the conclusion of examination by an immigration officer, did not have the effect of conferring indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in appeals by the Secretary of State for the Home Department against a decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on April 25, 1988 that the four respondents, Kewal Krishan Bagga, Rakesh and Anil Bist, Chandrakal and Vasudevan Rasiah, and Sudhila Kakkar, had indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

Prior to a further amendment which was not in force at the time of these appeals section 8(3) of the Immigration Act

1971, as amended, provided: "The provisions of this Act relating to those who are not British citizens shall not apply to any person so long as he is a member of a diplomatic mission within the meaning of the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964."

His appointment was notified to the Foreign Office on November 25, 1981. His employment ceased on July 8, 1983 and on September 14, 1983 he returned to India.

On April 13, 1986 he returned to the UK on an ordinary passport which was date stamped. On a subsequent visit to the UK he was refused leave to enter and it was alleged that his leave to enter in April 1986 had been obtained by deception.

The respondents, Rakesh and Anil Bist, Indian citizens, arrived in the UK on April 27, 1984, with their father who had been appointed to the Indian High Commission. Their passports were date stamped. No notification of their father's appointment was ever given to the Foreign Office.

On May 11, 1987, after their father's appointment had terminated, they applied for confirmation that they had indefinite leave to remain in the UK which was refused.

Mr and Mrs Rasiah were lawfully in this country on limited leave when Mrs Rasiah took up an appointment as a clerk/typist at the Singapore High Commission and, on application, her passport, and that of her husband, was endorsed that while she was so employed she was not subject to any condition or limitation on the period of permitted stay in the UK.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC, Mr Paul Stinchcombe and Mr Richard Humphreys for the Home Office; Mr Nicholas Blake for Bist, Mrs Owen Davies for Bagga, and Sudhila Kakkar, had indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

LORD JUSTICE PARKER said that Kewal Krishan Bagga was an Indian citizen who first

arrived in the United Kingdom on November 13, 1981 to take up employment with the Indian High Commission on a diplomatic mission.

His appointment was notified to the Foreign Office on November 25, 1981. His employment ceased on July 8, 1983 and on September 14, 1983 he returned to India.

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The council made two offers to rehouse Mrs Smith and her family but they were both rejected because the family wished to stay together and the offers entailed one of the daughters who was married, living separately.

The compulsory purchase order came into force and the council served a notice of intent to enter and take possession of the land. Mrs Smith was informed that the family would be rehoused in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation.

His Lordship did not agree with the argument that the provision of temporary bed and breakfast accommodation was of itself a failure to comply with the duty under section 39(1). It was for the council to decide what was reasonable in all the circumstances. Those circumstances included the amount

of time of accommodation available at any one time.

His Lordship accepted that R v Bristol Corporation, Ex parte Hendy (1974) 1 WLR 498 was authority for the proposition that in appropriate circumstances an offer of temporary accommodation with a promise of permanent accommodation to follow could meet the duty under section 39(1).

He did not accept that it was authority for the proposition that the offer of temporary accommodation had to be accompanied by the promise of permanent accommodation.

However, in the instant case it was clear that on the facts there was better than a prima facie case for permanent accommodation to follow.

In the circumstances, it could not be said that the council had acted unreasonably, particularly when the family had rejected two earlier offers of accommodation.

Lord Justice Stocker delivered a judgment concurring judgment and Sir Rousley Cumming Bruce agreed.

Solicitors: Pelly, Bishop's Stortford; Lovell White Durrant.

Council's duty to rehouse applicant

Regina v East Hertfordshire District Council, Ex parte Smith
Before Lord Justice Gidewell, Lord Justice Stocker and Sir Rousley Cumming Bruce
(Judgment April 3)

An offer of temporary accommodation, without a promise of permanent accommodation to follow, could satisfy the duty of a local authority under section 29 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 to rehouse people displaced from residential accommodation by a compulsory purchase order.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Josephine Smith against a refusal by Mr Justice Macpherson (*The Times* April 25) to grant judicial review of a decision under section 11 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965, by East Hertfordshire District Council to enter and take possession of the land on which she and her family lived.

Mr Patrick Ground, QC and Mrs Moira Pooley for Mrs Smith; Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC and Mr Richard Humphreys for the council.

LORD JUSTICE GIDEWELL said that following service by the council of an enforcement notice and a discontinuance notice against Mrs Smith's use of her land for the siting of her permanent home, she served a purchase notice on the council under section 189 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 by which the four respondents, Kewal Krishan Bagga, Rakesh and Anil Bist, Chandrakal and Vasudevan Rasiah, and Sudhila Kakkar, had indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

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Jury's freedom to find on lesser verdict

Regina v Carson
Before Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Nolan and Mr Justice McKinnon
(Judgment April 10)

On a true construction of section 7(3) of the Public Order Act 1986 a verdict of a jury was not only a verdict reached as a result of the jury's deliberations in its retiring room but included a verdict that had been achieved by positive direction of the judge.

Accordingly, where a jury was directed by the judge to find an applicant not guilty of the only offence charged against him in the indictment, namely an offence of violent disorder contrary to section 2 of the 1986 Act, the judge was entitled

under section 7(3), in his discretion, to leave for the jury's consideration the alternative lesser offence under section 4 of the 1986 Act.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing the appeal of Nicholas Craig Carson against his conviction on January 31, 1989, at Tewkesbury Crown Court (Judge Hewitt and a jury) of an offence under section 4. He was conditionally discharged for 12 months.

The plain fact was that the verdict of a jury was no less a true verdict because it had been returned by virtue of a direction of the judge to leave for the jury's consideration. That was what happened in this case.

The solicitor, CPS, North Yorkshire, argued

by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the applicant, Mr Adrian Dent, who did not appear before, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that it had been submitted, inter alia, that the offence under section 4 was a summary offence, triable only summarily, and that only a verdict of a jury of its own volition could invoke the power under section 7(3) to permit a jury to consider whether the offence under section 4 had been committed.

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Solicitors: CPS, North Yorkshire.

Esops and the Finance Bill: James Cornford proposes changes

Employee share owners given encouraging signs

AMONG the proposals in the Budget speech to be incorporated in the Finance Bill is an important concession designed to encourage employee share ownership. Roll-over relief on capital gains tax is to be extended to owners of shares in companies who sell them to Esops.

This could encourage the proprietors of private companies with succession problems to sell shares to employees and remove a strong bias in favour of selling out to a quoted company in a share for share deal.

The effect of the concession, however, will be limited because it applies only to the statutory Esop created by the Finance Act 1989 and not to the "case law" Esops created before 1989 and since.

To safeguard against Hungarian companies filling their order books with East bloc business, Budapest has restricted licences for such trade. From next year trade with the Russians will be settled in dollars.

The conditions to which the consultants object include restrictions on the eligibility of companies, requirements as to the trustees and beneficiaries of an Esop, limitations on the type of shares involved, strict time limits on the application

of funds and the distribution of shares and so forth.

The effect of these conditions is to limit severely the discretion of employers in the design of an Esop and to diminish their control of it once established. Since most employers and their advisers see Esops as a more flexible and powerful extension of incentive schemes, it makes sense for them to maintain control of the trust and to

● Tax reliefs to help investment in a worker's own company should be similar to those for pension funds

be able to discriminate among employees in the distribution of benefits.

For those like myself, who see Esops as a device for transforming the ownership and control of companies in the long run, the deficiencies of the statutory Esop are different. Some, if not all, of the restrictions are welcome. Particularly important is the requirement that shares should be distributed to all employees on similar terms.

The problems with the statutory Esop are political or constitutional rather than fiscal, and reflect its origins in the original which was created by the Finance Act 1989 to help the "case law" Esops created before 1989 and since.

It would be difficult now to

repeal the statutory Esop and we shall have to look to other means, such as the new partnership company intro-

duced in the Companies Act 1989, to provide the necessary framework.

Meanwhile, however, the analogy with pensions may be worth pushing in the current Finance Bill. Tax reliefs to encourage investment in the employee's own company should be treated on a par with investment in a pension fund.

It is directed to individual benefit. It provides no guarantee that employee shareholding will survive the issue

of the shares, nor for any effective representation of employees in the government of the company.

What is needed is a trust that can continue to hold a substantial block of shares on behalf of the employees and vote them on their instructions. Participation through ownership is a possible alternative to other forms of representation in the government of companies and ought not to be dependent on the complexities and timing of tax relief.

MOTORING

Edited by Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

Fiat's beautiful baby

Cars get bigger, never smaller. Marketing experts argue that should you decide to buy the same model again, you can unwillingly expect more car for your money. Inevitably, car manufacturers, with few exceptions, take this as an opportunity to charge more for the new model. Why? Well, it is bigger, so it costs more to make," is the usual answer.

Aside from the added cost, the other niggle is that an owner who is happy with the size of his or her VW Golf Mk I may find the Golf Mk II less nippy in traffic and not as easy to park.

The inexorable growth of car sizes means there are few genuinely small cars available — and the number is likely to decrease. It all comes back to size. Car manufacturers have found that making a profit on a small car is not easy. Models such as the Renault 5 and Ford Fiesta get bigger with every generation, but no small cars are being developed for the bottom of the range.

Small cars are a bit like the silent majority — no one makes a fuss about them. The Fiat 126 BIS is an example. It is never ad-

vertised and should a motoring journalist ask to test one, the answer from the manufacturer will be a firm "no". Getting to drive a Ferrari is easier.

However, the Polish-built baby Fiat consistently finds 2,500 customers each year in Britain, and if more could be imported, sales would almost certainly rise.

The Fiat 126 is ridiculously cheap. A glance down the list of the hundreds of models on sale reveals that nothing comes close to the diminutive Fiat's price of £2,995.

At only 10ft long, the Mini is 2in shorter than the Fiat 126 and is faster and more roomy inside, although the £4,799 price tag for the basic City model is hardly modest. The stalwart Citroën 2CV cannot match the compactness of its two-door rivals, and costs £3,963.

The likeable Skoda 120L (£3,693), which is nearing the end

of a long life, and the unlovable Yugo 45A (£2,794) come closest to the Fiat on price.

All small cars have long lives and the Fiat 126 is no different. It was launched in 1972 to replace the tiny Fiat 500. Styling a car just 10ft 2in long is not easy, yet the Fiat 126 looks modern and distinctive 18 years ago. Italians have a natural flair for small cars, and today the latest 126 is still pleasing to the eye.

For much of its life, the car offered little boot space — just enough for a soft holdall under the bonnet. In 1987, the BIS model was introduced with a hatchback style and an opening rear tailgate. For shoppers, it is a big improvement — the rear seats fold forward to increase the boot space.

Beneath the boot, the aged and noisy air-cooled twin-cylinder engine has made way for a quieter, more modern water-cooled unit. Gone also is the siren-like drone of

the starter motor. Engine size is still a tiny 704cc compared with the previous 652cc, producing just 26bhp.

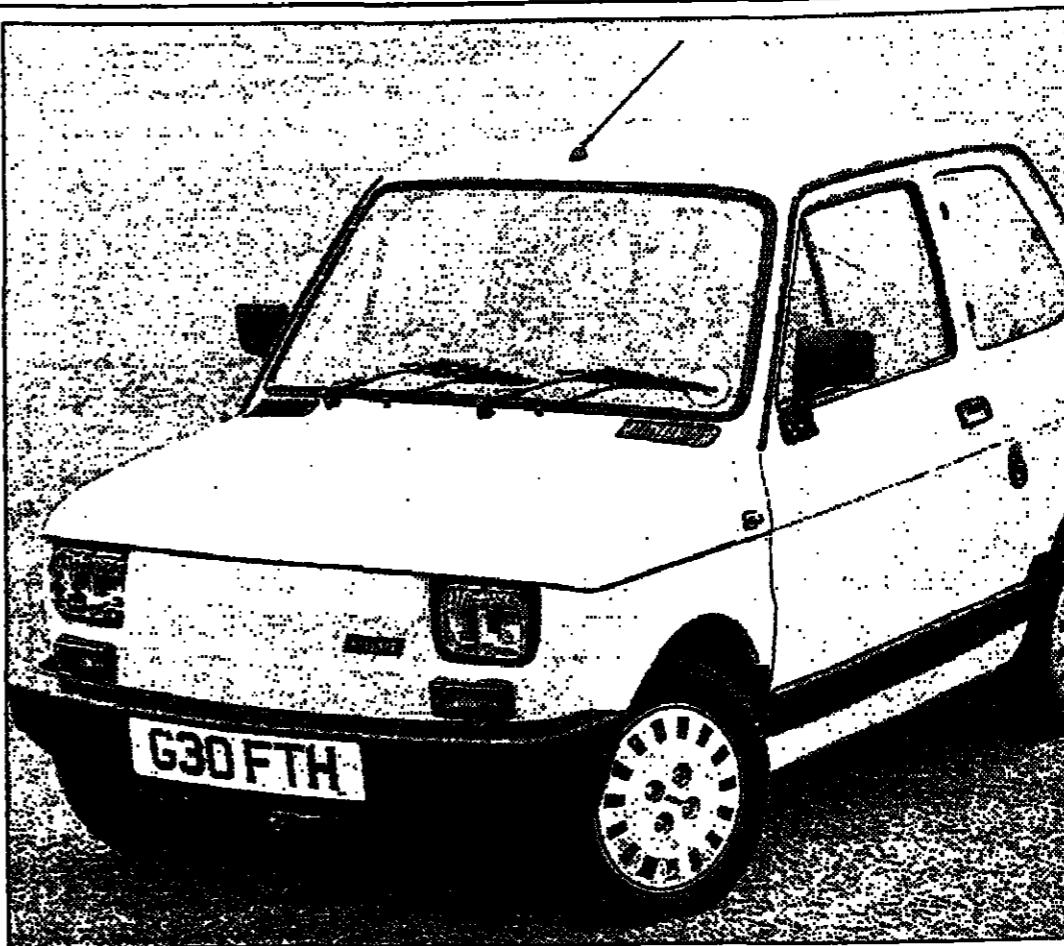
It takes half a minute to reach 60mph, but this is hardly relevant. What is more important is that fitting the four-speed gearbox will allow the Fiat 126 to keep pace with town traffic without the driver feeling threatened. Longer gearing is designed to quieten the engine and the BIS does not feel as eager as its less-couth predecessor.

The Fiat's strong point is economy. On the official urban-cycle figures, it returns 48.7mpg. Cars harm the environment, but the Fiat 126 does less damage than most. It runs on unleaded petrol.

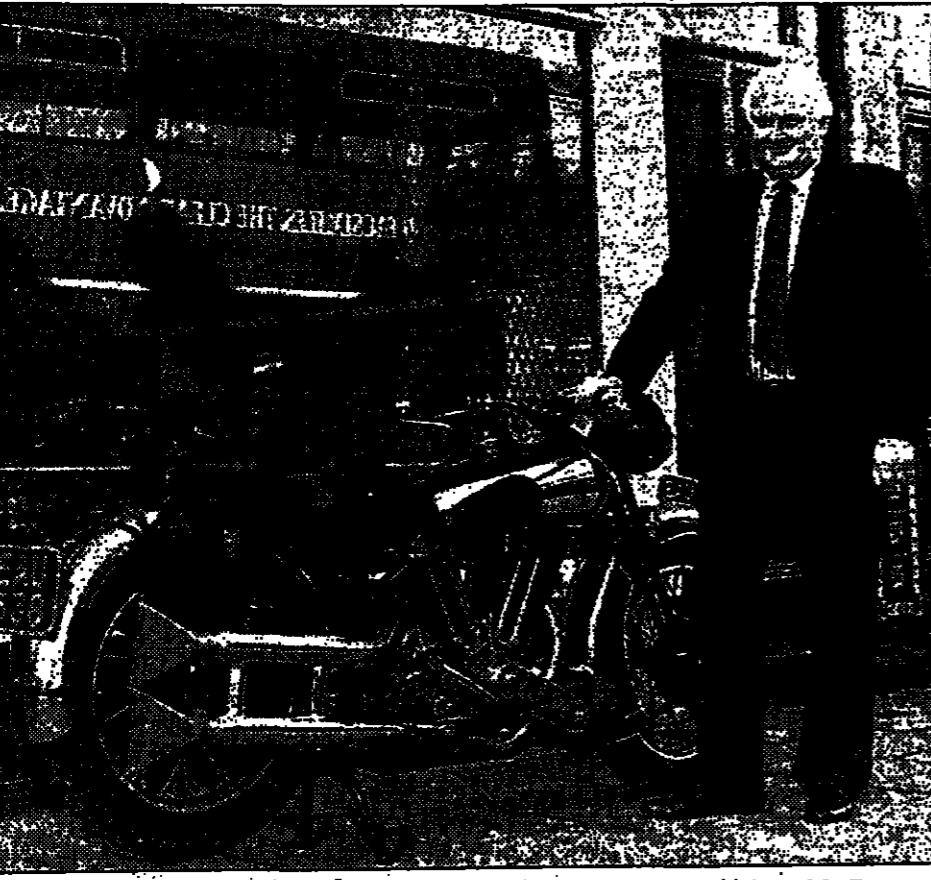
Brakes and comfort have improved in recent years, yet it is the vehicle's size and agility which set it apart. Steering is so sharp and responsive it could have come from a go-kart.

As Britain's city streets become more congested, environmentalists may eventually convince us that small is beautiful. The Fiat 126 BIS already makes the point.

Daniel Ward



The diminutive Fiat 126 BIS: its excellent economy and handling mean more value for less car



Brian Verrall and his 1937 Brough Superior SS100, one of less than 300 built

Two wheels against inflation

Classic motorcycles are returning in style, the choice of investors seeking originality and an enduring value

THERE WAS a time when only motorcycle enthusiasts would argue that two wheels were better than four. But with the spectre of rising inflation, more and more investors are using classic motorcycles to stay ahead in the race for high yields to protect their funds.

Even the best examples of great British hardware are providing a hedge against inflation at a time when owners of collector cars are asking five and six figure prices. Brian Verrall, an expert in classic motorcycles, believes the big money could soon move from cars to two-wheeled transport.

Already investors such as Eddie Shah, have seen the opportunities. He paid about £40,000 for a 1930 Brough Superior. Tycoon Peter de Savary spent £26,000 on a 1921 Model H Triumph. "Both paid well over the odds in my opinion," says Mr Verrall, who has been dealing in motorcycles for almost 40 years and, advises Christie's and Sotheby's.

The top price paid at auction was at Christie's sale

at the Donington Park race track last April. A 1912 Wallycar three-wheeler fetched more than £60,000.

But there have been whispers of private sales reaching £250,000 for some exotic machines.

Buyers should not be put off by these outlandish prices, Mr Verrall says. "A mint Manx Norton racing machine can still be bought for under £24,000," he says. "But a collector can start with as little as £2,000 to acquire a good running classic machine that will hold its value in the years to come."

Though veteran (pre-1914) and vintage (pre-1930) motorcycles have risen steadily in value, it is among the classic post-war machines that the biggest increases have been recorded. The powerful Vincent Black Shadow of the 1950s has more than doubled

in value. A buyer today would be lucky to find a good one for less than £15,000.

Mr Verrall says: "This is an area heavy in nostalgia. People are buying the machines they remember of the Forties, Fifties and Sixties. It is not only British bikes. An Italian MV Augusta of the era, in pristine condition, can reach £30,000."

The key to investing in motorcycles is originality. "Collectors should aim for machines that are as near original as possible," he says. "Good restoration jobs are fine, but to be a sound investment the bike must have its original frame and engine."

Rare racing machines also attract investors. Some of the less-scrupulous may favour these unregistered machines built for the track as a way of

Paul Myles

ROADWISE

■ When Formula One champion McLaren launches a 200mph road-going supercar in three years, it will cost more than £500,000. Production may be only 50 cars a year. At least 300 customers have put their names down in the unofficial order book. Many of them are car collectors who have been asked by McLaren for their views on what type of machine the firm should design.

■ Vauxhall's Cavalier has been voted Fleet Car of the Year for the fourth time by the Association of Car Fleet Operators, which represents 500 major fleets. The winning car has to "give the best all-round value over a period of 12 months".

■ The only British designs to challenge the famous Italian styling houses at the Turin show this week will come from the Worthing firm IAD. It will display a stunning sportscar, Venus, which has the exposed suspension and wheels of a racing car, and a five-seater, multi-purpose vehicle based on a Ford Escort, dubbed the Mini MPV. Sales of MPVs are increasing quickly in the United States and demand in Europe for vehicles such as the Renault Espace is expected to rise strongly in the 1990s.

WHAT'S REASSURING ABOUT A USED ROVER IS HOW MANY HANDS IT'S BEEN THROUGH.

From used Rover to approved Rover is a long haul. Each car has to pass a Rover Quality Inspection covering up to 70 different operations: only then can it qualify as an Executive Used Car.

To begin with, the bodywork is examined and the brakes and gearbox tested. Under the car is checked and the engine is given a computerised diagnostic inspection.

Then the electric circuits are put through a computer electronic systems tester. This is unique to Rover and checks the ignition and all engine management related systems.

If a car gets through all this, it's road tested. We check noise levels, instrument function, cruise control, ABS, central locking and other key points. Then if its performance is up to the mark, each survivor is given a final valet. (Even the carpets are gone through with a fine tooth-comb.)

Of course, there's still a chance you may find something you're unhappy with. So in the unlikely event of the car performing below expectation

in the first couple of weeks, you can take it back and swap it for a similar model. You also get a year's warranty plus 12 months' free membership of the AA, comprising Relay, Home Start and 5-Star European Coverage. Unless you decide to tackle the East African Safari you should be OK.

To find the location of your nearest Rover Executive Used Car Dealer call 0753 696100.

And rest assured, whatever you put the car through, it will be nothing compared to what it suffered at our hands.



For the first year you're entitled to a replacement if the car fails.



BRIEFINGS

■ The Export Credit Guarantee Department will consider applications from British firms seeking to invest in Eastern Europe. Priority will be given to smaller schemes and those that offer East European countries the opportunity for overseas earnings.

■ The second London Language Show will take place at the Barbican on June 19 to 21. Organized by Profac, of Vernon Place, London, it will cover training, translation and interpreting services, computers, books, tapes and video.

■ The Government's excise policies for the single European market could bankrupt many wine and spirit firms in southern England, according to Mr Richard Ward, director of the Wine and Spirit Association. He said the Government had refused to join EC moves towards harmonization of excise duties. He said: "Serious fears are growing that new styles of operation, bringing low-taxed goods from countries like Bulgaria... could drive smaller wine merchants out of business. To take advantage of huge differentials in excise duties, major traders will give up a secure, well-paid job with the electricity board to study ceramics at Lancashire Polytechnic."

On graduating last summer, he exhibited at the New Designers exhibition in London. The show invites manufacturers, retailers and galleries to buy and commission designs or employ designers.

As a result of the show, he received many commissions from private clients and interior designers and now has work in Liberty's, several London galleries and the Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool, among other notable places. Menra has been selected by the Crafts Council to participate in an exhibition of British crafts in California this autumn. Sponsored by the Department of Trade and Industry, the exhibition is the first step towards Menra's planned expansion into export markets.

Mr Miles-Moore's commercial experience includes working as a sales representative for four years. After interest was shown in his work, he applied for an enterprise allowance and sought a £5,000 business development loan from National Westminster Bank to finance equipment and a vehicle. Although he knew how to draw up a business plan, before approaching the bank, he went to the local business development agency, which put him in touch with the DIT's Small Firm's Service. An



Shaping his own destiny: Martin Miles-Moore, who set up Menra with Carol Newmarch

SFS adviser suggested changing the presentation format, which helped secure the loan.

How to pay for professional photography and a professionally-designed brochure is often a stumbling block. Menra has solved the problem by organizing skill swaps. A photographer and a graphic designer gave their services in return for some of Menra's ceramics.

Menra's work is both functional and decorative. It is produced by slipcasting, press-moulding, throwing and hand-building. Although Menra's projected turnover of £20,000 sounds modest, it is in fact high

for a pottery, particularly in its first year of trading. In spite of the economic climate, the projected turnover has been substantially exceeded during the first six months.

The incomes of Mr Miles-Moore and Miss Newmarch are boosted by teaching — they organize peripatetic ceramic arts at schools and art centres.

However, they are already planning to move to a larger workshop and to employ a student or placement.

Their next exhibition is at The New Designers Gallery, Business Design Centre, Islington, London, from July 11 to 14.

Leasehold moves ahead in property popularity stakes

By A Correspondent

THE value of Britain's independent retail business premises is growing again after a period of stagnation, but prices for leasehold shops are rising faster than those for freehold.

A quarterly review of average prices published by Everett Mason and Furby, an agency based in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, shows leasehold prices rising by 6.45 per cent a year, against only 2.9 per cent in freehold values.

New entrants into small retail businesses, who would normally sell their home to buy a freehold business property with residential accommodation, are being forced by high interest rates to take alternative steps.

The agency's figures are based on a sample of 1,096 independent retail businesses nationwide. They show that the average price of a leasehold business has risen 1.75 per cent to £55,427 since January 1. This compares with a growth of less than 0.75 per cent in freehold values, taking the average price in the same period to £181,438. In both cases, they are the first rises in national average values for more than a year.

Mr Anthony Madden, the chairman, said: "The virtual standstill on residential sales throughout the whole of last year had a dramatic knock-on effect on business sales.

However, there are real signs of movement now, characterized by new entrants raising finance on the family home, instead of selling it, in order to buy a business.

"As a result, the demand for leasehold businesses, notably lock-up premises, is growing steadily and beginning to force up prices. The situation has led to a lower-than-usual demand for freeholds, and so growth in values, although detectable for the first time in over a year, is at a much slower rate."

EM&F's figures show that the recovery has not yet fed through to all regions. East Anglia, for example is lagging. Leasehold values are rising at the rate of only 1 per cent per annum on first-quarter results, and freehold values are still 15 per cent lower than in December 1988.

The Midlands and the North, however, advanced in the first quarter of 1990. Freehold prices rose more than 1 per cent and leaseholds are up by 3 per cent between January 1 and March 31.

The South West and West of England, Wales and the Welsh borders have seen a 1.5 per cent growth in freehold values during the first quarter, with leaseholds up 2.25 per cent.

In London, however, there has been a 1.9 per cent growth in freehold values, but only 1.65 per cent in leasehold values, making it the only area to go against the trend towards leasehold premises.

In the Miles-Moore mould

By Peta Levi

IT TAKES most potters many years to become established, but a new Lancashire ceramic business called Menra — the name given by the ancient Etruscans to their goddess of the crafts — has become highly successful within just six months.

This success is due partly to talent, but much more rare among craftspeople, commercial experience and a determination to use all available business expertise have played an important role.

Menra is a partnership between Mr Martin Miles-Moore, aged 30, and Miss Carol Newmarch, a Middlesex Polytechnic graduate and teacher. They met when Mr Miles-Moore joined Miss Newmarch's ceramic evening class in Lancaster. The enthusiastic response to his work persuaded Mr Miles-Moore to give up a secure, well-paid job with the electricity board to study ceramics at Lancashire Polytechnic.

On graduating last summer, he exhibited at the New Designers exhibition in London. The show invites manufacturers, retailers and galleries to buy and commission designs or employ designers.

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More chair-bound sprinters are proving that the marathon distance need not be a handicap

The race is against yourself

By Alix Ramsay

SO YOU want to join the SIA? An ever-growing club providing a wide range of facilities to its members all over the country, facilities that are individually adapted to each member's needs? It's a club that will certainly set you apart from the rest, as the SIA is the Spinal Injuries Association.

All you have to do is injure your spinal column. How you do it is up to you — fall off a horse or under a bus, the SIA will not mind. But once you have done it, you are in.

By 1987 the SIA had nearly 5,000 members and with two spinal injury accidents every day in Britain, the number is growing.

"We are there for anyone who has disability thrown upon them," John Fieldus, appeals director of the SIA, said. "It takes an awfully long time to rehabilitate. Spinal cord injury is the ultimate critical injury. The first thing people want after an accident is information and the SIA provides that to help them cope."

The association has desks manned by SIA members at all the spinal injuries units, such as Stoke Mandeville. Run by an executive committee and management team of 124 wheelchair users, the SIA provides positive proof that life does not stop just because you have broken your back.

The idea came from Baroness Masham of Iton. She broke her neck while riding in a point-to-point in 1959 and soon realized that people paralysed in this way need help and support to pick up the pieces after an accident. So in 1974 she founded the SIA with the Princess Royal as Patron.

With many members coming from riding accidents, the association has raised money and promoted itself through the racing fraternity. In the 1988-89 season it was supported by Coral Racing raising £280,000 through sponsorship and spreading the word about the association at every race track. The year before it was Eversi Double Glazing which lent its support through jumping and next year the SIA plans a big drive with three-day eventing, with Lucinda Green as president of the appeal.

It can take two or three years to come through rehabilitation and to readjust



London-bound: Carruthers training for the marathon on the modified racing cyclists' rollers which he set up in his Loughborough workshop

to life in a wheelchair and the SIA tries to smooth the way with everything from answering one-off enquiries to providing holidays, care attendants and welfare.

Peter Carruthers found he had to readjust to life in a wheelchair 13 years ago when he broke his neck in a road accident. It left him a tetraplegic — unable to walk and with only limited use of his hands and arms. He was given help and advice by the SIA when flat on his back recovering from the accident and now, thanks to a seemingly indomitable spirit and a passion for wheelchair racing, he and his wife, Sheila, run Bromakim Wheelchairs, in Loughborough, the only company in the country to make racing chairs.

Although he is a sprint

specialist, with a 100 metre gold medal from the Paralympics in Seoul to his name, he is going for his sixth London marathon this year, aiming to better his best time of 2½ hours.

"After the accident you always think you've had it, but one day it has happened to you," Carruthers said. "At that point, your life and your family's life is shattered and an organization like the SIA provides support and lets you know that other people have managed to put their lives back together again."

For Carruthers, a former rugby player, it was his wish to get back into sport that got him on his way. "At first I found the sporting opportunities available to me were very limited," he said. "I wanted to do something with

the real thrill of sport. I thought maybe wheelchair racing would provide it."

A trip to the International Games at Stoke Mandeville in 1982 provided the spark. Watching Beau Lindkvist, of Sweden, win a batch of medals, Carruthers set out to make himself a chair that would enable him to try racing. With a little help from a bicycle maker he came up with a frame. He then bolted a fibre glass seat to it and Carruthers was off and wheeling.

"I first raced in 1983 and the longest race I could enter was the 100 metres. It was thought tetraplegics couldn't do the longer distances." But a meeting shortly afterwards with Jan-Ove Mattsson, another Swedish athlete, also a tetraplegic, convinced him otherwise.

"Mattsson has raised everyone's expectations of what they can achieve, including people like me. When I started I didn't have the slightest idea I could do a marathon."

"It is easy to think of people in wheelchairs as all having the same level of disability, but that is far from the case. Every injury brings its own set of problems unique to that individual. That is the great thing about wheelchair racing," Carruthers said. "The differences don't really matter. It is no great advantage to have more mobility once you are in the chair. Everyone is racing against himself."

But it is not all cheerful good spirits and a stiff upper lip. People in wheelchairs cope because they have to. "When you're in hospital, everyone thinks if it is the last thing I ever do I will walk again," Carruthers said. "But you can't make the spinal cord regenerate and you don't walk again. Anyway, walking isn't so terribly important."

"For me, the greatest resentment is my high level of disability. I wish I had a better level of disability for racing. Tetraplegics always say: 'Donations to the trust should be sent to the Bob Champion Cancer Trust, Holland House, Burmester Road, London SW17 5EE.'

She started riding by way of a family tradition. In 1984 she

won the Newmarket Town Plate, a race for amateur riders over four miles, on Sunmons. She recalled: "My grandmother was the first lady to win the race and then my mother won it. It was my first winner on my first ride."

Now she continues her riding career while attending Westminster College, putting the financing together to a three-year course in hotel and tourism management. So far, in four years, she has ridden 15 winners in point-to-point and five in hunter chases.

She is keen to tackle Aintree's daunting obstacles over the Foxhunter's chase over one circuit of the Grand National course, often described as the "amateur's Grand National". Her hopes lie with another horse owned by her father, Royal Gambit. This is their first race together and they have been getting to know each other. But hopefully next year we'll be going for the Foxhunter's at Aintree and then Aintree."

At 20 Aldean is enjoying his retirement at the Embiricos' home in Sussex. "Even when I see him in the field now, I still can't believe he did it. He's very well and we're getting him ready for his birthday party," she said.

The pair have been based at Sandown Park racecourse on May 13, and is another of the three-year-old racing schemes organized by the trust, which since 1983 has raised nearly £4 million for cancer research projects.

Ebiricos, with the trust's three other runners, hopes to raise a total of £12,000 from Sunday's efforts.

She started riding by way of a family tradition. In 1984 she

Confident over distance — without the aid of a horse

By Paul Wheeler

FOR somebody used to races of between two and four miles in between two and 26 miles, 285 yards of the London Marathon may seem a bit steep. But Alexandra Embiricos, an amateur jockey, is confident of lasting the distance. "Oh I'll get round," she said. "I hope to finish in about four hours. This is my first marathon — and probably my last."

Embiricos, aged 22, finds herself as part of a team that did not turn up. "I was talking with some friends last year and they were saying, 'Why don't we all go running', and we decided to go for the marathon. Three of us sent off the entry forms, but in the end it was only we who got through."

"I've been in training since September. I do a lot of exercises for racing. I normally run about three miles a day. And then there's cycling and also work in the gym. You have to be fit to go for the marathon. Three of us sent off the entry forms, but in the end it was only we who got through."

She has suffered some knee problems which have restricted her training, but she passes these off lightly. "I've got some new shoes to help me, so I'll be all right on the day."

Densimo is not a man to make predictions

By Louise Taylor

BELAYNEH Densimo was not making any predictions about the London Marathon yesterday, in fact, there were few subjects he was prepared to commit himself on.

Take his age for instance. It is beyond dispute that Densimo is the holder of the world's best marathon time — 2hr 6min 50sec recorded in Rotterdam in 1988 — but there is plenty of debate regarding his date of birth. In the past, the Ethiopian has claimed to have celebrated 24 birthdays, before turning round a few weeks later and describing himself as aged 32.

At yesterday's pre-race press conference in London, he told his interpreter he was 25. A receding hair-line suggests otherwise, and a grinning Densimo added: "Well, 25 plus; I think the Ethiopian calendar is different to yours."

Whatever his age, it is definitely Densimo's first appearance in the London Marathon. His performances will depend on "how I feel on the morning and the weather as much of the course — but I am confident I can win it. I also want to improve my marathon record, but I do not know whether it will be on Sunday or the next race."

The mentality may be quintessential African, but the trappings of success are pure western commercialism. Casually

Mekonnen chance in Rotterdam

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

ROTTERDAM (Reuters) — Abre Mekonnen (Reuter) — Abre Mekonnen will be aiming to make the most of the absence of his compatriot, Belayneh Densimo, who is running in London to complete another Ethiopian victory in the Rotterdam marathon on Sunday.

As far as I am a household name at home, and it has meant a lot for different things to me. My personal life has been improved by 100 per cent, and I have all the basics, like houses and cars, that I need."

It is a far cry from his origins in a peasant village in Sidoine province, where a lack of training meant that Densimo, the eight children, first walked and later ran the 20-kilometre round trip to primary school each day.

As a 15-year-old, Densimo entered and won a 21km road race, which the amazement was to win at this game. So I joined the police, got proper training, and started running marathons."

Some would argue that he has been running too many of them lately, four in the past year. The result has been a jaded-looking Densimo, finishing ninth in New York last November, and third in Tokyo two months ago.

Stiff competition will also be provided by the Japanese pair of Hiromi Taniguchi (best of 2hr 07min 40sec) and Takeshi Soh (2hr 08min 53sec) while the Dutchman, Marten ten Kate, will be eager to improve on his third position last year (2hr 10min 04sec) on his home soil.

Britain needs a fresh talent if it is to show any signs of prosperity in Split. The days of cutting lawns while watching Sebastian Coe get ready to trim the world middle distance records are a long way behind Carl Thackery now. The Yorkshireman never was one to let the grass grow beneath his feet and, with the help of the ADT London Marathon on Sunday, he plans to be on the move to Split for the European championships this summer.

Thackery's time as a national under-18 karate champion coincided with Coe's as the world's premier 800 and 1500 metres runner nearly a decade ago. The fun went out of karate when Thackery's father had him working out for two hours a day until he reached black belt, first dan, status. A groundsmen at Sheffield University, where Coe trained "while I was on the fly", Thackery acquired the taste for running. The bond was tightened when he joined Hallamshire Harriers, Coe's club.

Thackery, aged 27, may yet become Hallamshire's most successful marathon runner, though with Trevor Wright, former European silver medalist, the incumbent of that distinction, he has some way to go.

After all, in his only two marathons so far, he chucked in one after nine miles and finished the other in 2hr 14min 19sec, which is so far down the British all-time list that you could block Westminster Bridge with the numbers ahead of him.

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A loser by name but big was the game

The origin of billiards is very obscure. One train of thought is that billiards was an indoor version of croquet—the mallet replaced by the mace, a wooden stick with a wooden head.

The game could have French origins for it is known that Louis XI enjoyed *billard* on his own table, which would have had a wooden bed—the slate bed didn't arrive until the 1830s. Can you imagine Messrs Higgins and Knowles playing on a wooden bed for the world championship?

It is generally accepted that the first billiards professional was John Roberts in the mid 19th century. Other leading players of the day were William Cook, William Mitchell and W. J. Peall. They and some other members of the trade set up the Billiards Association in 1885, and so the official rules of the game were introduced.

A new era was born in the early 1900s through Inman and Reece. The rivalry between the two became legendary. The stories of their bickering are unlimited. I like the one told following an Inman fluke. Sarcastically, Reece asked: "How did you do that?" Inman snapped in reply: "You are fully aware of my terms of union!"

It is considered that Inman was the better player, but it was Reece who played two sessions a day for five weeks to compile a break of 499,135 using the anchor cannon—yes, they changed the rules after that!

In 1920 one of the greats entered the scene—Willie Smith, whose

game was that of the ordinary club player but so much better and quite different to his predecessors. He took over the world title from Melbourne Inman who had held it the previous four years; Smith's confederates were Claude Falkiner, Tom Newman, Freddie Lawrence and Tom Tophill. At this same time, three names were to emerge, never to be forgotten, in the history of billiards and snooker: New Zealand's Clark McConachy, Australia's Walter Lindrum and England's Joe Davis.

McConachy, Lindrum and Davis, together with Smith and Newman, took over the world stage of billiards until its death in 1934. Davis took the crown from Newman and held it for four years; Lindrum's magical control of the balls and his break-building speed at close cannons brought monotony for spectators; such was Lindrum's artistry, it is said, anyone could throw three balls on the table, and in three shots Lindrum would get close cannons from the position left by the throw. He was, and always will be, the father of the three-ball game.

It was in 1875 that a young Army officer, Colonel Sir Neville Chamberlain (no relation to the man with the umbrella), while stationed in India, had the idea of adding coloured balls to their usual game of Pyramids, so-called because it consisted of a pyramid of red balls, which they took turns to pot with the white cue-ball. The name "snooker" was an Army term, meaning "loser"—if you failed to pot the colours, you lost your money. Snooker was born.

One player, however, saw the potential in the game of snooker. Joe Davis was not only a champion

pioneer billiards player, he was an astute businessman and talented organizer. With 22 balls and a variation of colour, he foresaw the buzz action of this "fun-game" and its possibilities. He knew, for he was champion, that the three-ball game of billiards was becoming monotonous to the spectator and small areas of the table being used for close cannons, and lack of movement causing loss of popularity. He lobbied his fellow pros and friends in the trade to

attack the controlling body for a world snooker championship. They were reluctant but gave their consent, and 57 years from the inauguration of the billiards championships, professional snooker launched its championship in 1927.

All the history books will tell you how Joe dominated the game for twenty years undefeated—how he built its popularity, how he made the game his own—but those books may not tell you how

difficult it was for Pulman, he set up challenge matches for his title, and survived seven, the number of years there were no championships. Very few of today's players would know about, or even understand, those difficult times.

Oddly enough, television, which had played havoc with many entertainments, was to be snooker's salvation. In 1969 *Pot Black* appeared on the screens and was an instant success. It introduced snooker to a new audience, a section of the community hitherto ignorant of the game. Recorded over three and a half days per programme, directed by Jim Dunnigan and painstakingly edited by the producer, Reg Perrin, *Pot Black* was shown all over the world.

It became its own executioner—each series of sixteen programmes was shown weekly over four months. The overwhelming popularity of its 30-minute airtime attracted a host of sponsors into the game, founding new

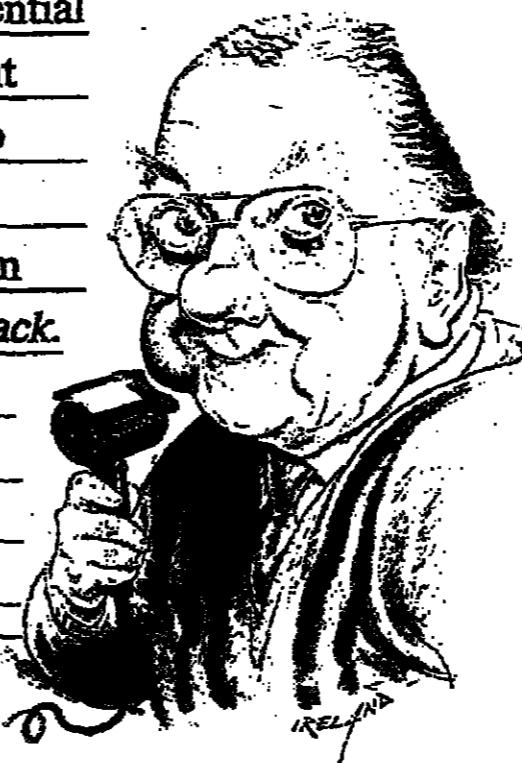
tournaments that eventually made *Pot Black* surplus to requirements.

Television has brought the biggest boom the game has ever seen. It has made mega-stars of some players and tournament prize-money now runs into millions of pounds annually. The playing calendar is so full that contestants sometimes find difficulty in getting from one venue to the next. The life of today's snooker star is a far cry from the daily chores of the pre-war professional.

A contract signed by the BBC guarantees the excitement and drama of big tournaments in Great Britain until 1996, and the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield will remain the home of the world championship, with all its thrills, until the same date.

Certainly, television has put the world championship equal to, if not above, Wimbledon or the Derby as a popular sporting event. Television has also given us those memories that for many would have held no interest, a mere decade ago. How can we forget that famous night when a record 18.5 million people sat spellbound in the early hours, to watch Dennis Taylor sink the final black against Steve Davis and take the title. Then there was the picture of elation on the face of Cliff Thorburn as he knelt by the table when the last black dropped to record his championship maximum break in 1983.

Extracted from Ted Lowe's text for John Ireland's *Snooker Characters*, published by Queen Anne Press (£14.95). © Lennart Books Ltd.



DRAWINGS BY JOHN IRELAND

"The Grinder", as he is affectionately known after his second-round final session against Terry Griffiths in the 1983 world championship, had taken nine hours, finishing around 4am, with Cliff Thorburn winning 13-12. The toughest match player anyone can meet, Thorburn, from Toronto, Canada, began playing in a local pool room and learnt the hard way. He would take any job to get a few dollars with which to gamble on himself at pool, and so hustled his way across North America. It took him until 1980 to realise his ambition to become world champion. Thorburn bettered this in 1983 by making the maximum 147, the only player to do so in a world championship.

The very essence of the true snooker player can be found nowhere better in the life of Jimmy White. He played truant from school to such a degree that his headmaster finally allowed his pupil afternoon absence in order to play snooker at the local billiard hall. His education suffered, but those afternoons were the stepping stones to world stardom. At 16, he was All England amateur snooker champion and within two years had become the youngest-ever world amateur champion. Jimmy's natural ability is the envy of many top players but his flamboyant style has given away as many frames as some players have ever won. In maturity, he is more cautious.

Like the athlete struggling to take a second off his best time, Davis strives for absolute accuracy in every stroke he plays. He is a very private person, a gentleman both on and away from the table. Perhaps he is best summed up by the occasion on which his name was first inscribed on the coveted world championship trophy. We celebrated into the early hours, while Davis lay on a couch, clutching the trophy and joining in the laughter. Then he just fell asleep amid all the hilarity. Born of a close-knit working-class family in Plumstead, south-east London, Davis is still accompanied everywhere by his father, Bill, who introduced him to billiards and then encouraged him.

Alex Higgins is controversial, self-destructive, unpredictable, sometimes aggressive and can be extremely pleasant. He has an undeniable talent, and love him or hate him, there has never been a better box-office draw. He first hit the headlines in 1972 by winning the world title at his first attempt. Never out of the headlines, he took the title again ten years later. His quick thinking gave him a natural flair for the game and he would play for hours on end. He is completely self-taught, his style an absolute contrast to Steve Davis's. He is a rebel and does not have too much time for the establishment. He makes no attempt to conceal pathos or dejection in defeat.

Stephen Hendry was only 14 when he made his debut on television—in *Junior Pot Black* 1983. Then he was a 4ft 9in lad from Scotland, happy and proud to be wearing his first pair of long trousers. Now, seven years on, he is being acclaimed as a potential world champion and the second millionaire snooker player. His parents bought him a small table for Christmas and he has never looked back. Still a shy boy but now over 6ft tall, he matures in stature and performance with each passing day. Able, managed and guided by a Scottish businessman, Ian Doyle, this baby of the snooker profession has a very bright future indeed. Already he is the world's No. 2 player.

Undoubtedly a character of the future is John Parrott. He has a great sense of humour. At 25 snooker has already taken Parrott all over the world since he turned professional in 1983—from Australia and Hong Kong to China (where he won the Kent Cup) and to Europe, where in Deauville in 1989 he registered his first big ranking tournament win in the European Open. Parrott first came to prominence when only 17. He was invited on *Junior Pot Black* and won two of the three series recorded for TV. He has a unique record in the Ponun Festival of Snooker: as an amateur, he won the junior and open tournaments; as a professional, he has taken both open and pro titles.

BASEBALL

Relief pitchers unable to contain Cincinnati

By Robert Kirley

THE Cincinnati Reds have thwarted their opponents' relief pitchers and won their first six games for the best start in the major leagues this season. The Reds were mired in controversy last year because of alleged gambling improprieties by Pete Rose, their manager, who has since been banned.

The players have asserted their remarkable talent in the National League West division. Led by their new manager, Lou Piniella, the Reds swept a three-game series in Houston, twice beating the game-winning hit off the relief pitcher, Charlie Kerfeld, of the Astros. Cincinnati then defeated the Atlanta Braves three times before opening at home against the San Diego Padres.

Mark Langston and Mike Witt, of the California Angels, pitched the first two-man no-hitter for 14 years. Langston worked the first seven innings of the 1-0 victory over the Seattle Mariners. Witt had pitched the Angels' previous no-hitter, against Texas in 1984.

Dave Winfield, who missed last season because of back surgery, is in the New York Yankees' line-up as designated hitter. Winfield, aged 38, who managed only one hit in 29 spring training at-bats, hit safely in his first game.

Dwight Gooden, of the New York Mets, defeated in his first start, has a losing record for the first time in his seven-season career. After faltering on opening day, Gooden, who underwent alcohol rehabilitation in the close season, yielded five runs in the second inning and departed after the third in a 6-5 loss to the Montreal Expos.

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CYCLING

Easter victors chosen for Peace Race

MAVIS Steele, doyenne of the women's international bowls scene for the last three decades, tries for one of the few titles to have eluded her in a superb career when she lines up in the women's world indoor championships in Guernsey this weekend.

Steve Steele, of Middlesex, has amassed 11 national titles, but went down by the narrowest of margins in last year's world indoor final, losing 7-6 to Margaret John.

Chris Boardman, a recent stage winner in the tour of Texas, and his team colleagues in that event, Simon Lillistone and Mark Gornall, had been named earlier for the race.

Boardman has been selected

BOWLS

Steele tries for elusive title

By a Special Correspondent

MAVIS Steele, doyenne of the women's international bowls scene for the last three decades, tries for one of the few titles to have eluded her in a superb career when she lines up in the women's world indoor championships in Guernsey this weekend.

That result gave Johnstone, aged 46, from Ballymoney, the title for the second time after her victory in the inaugural event in 1988 and she will start as favourite to complete three in a row when the action gets under way at the Guernsey indoor club tomorrow. The Channel Islands' only indoor bowls facility.

Johnstone, however, has been given no favour in the draw, being included in what looks to be by far the hardest of the four

sections. She renews rivalry with last month's British singles beaten finalist, Jill Smith, the reigning English champion, and Liz Wren, Scotland's reigning national champion.

Both have something to prove, Smith that last month's defeat was a temporary setback in her rise to the top, and Wren that the Scottish Selections were wrong to omit her from the 32-trio for the home international outdoor series.

Steele is included in the section with Eileen Gordon, of Ireland, and the home club player, Ann Simon, while in the other section, Belinda McKeown of Ireland, is joined by Ann Sutherland, the reigning Welsh champion, and Fleur Bourgouin, the Guernsey champion.

Competing the line-up is Jeannette Conlan, of Scotland, and the Welsh Fleur, Pam John and Sylvia Froud, the reigning United Kingdom champion.

Two players from each

section go forward to tomorrow's quarter-finals with the semi-finals and final scheduled for Sunday.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

British league is given NFL seal of approval

By Richard Wetherell

BRITAIN'S league programme gets under way this weekend, boosted by the fact that it has been recognized by the National Football League (NFL). This is the first time that the NFL has approved another league and indicates that the National Division Managers Association (NDMA) could be on the verge of something big.

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The 18 teams making up the NFL are split into two conferences. They play each club in their own conference and two from the other. The winners of each conference and the six next best go into the play-offs.

The NFL has come into the British game partly because it is planning its own European

league, the World League of American Football, next season and partly because it is the second largest market for its merchandise. The most visible link will be the NFL badge on team shirts, but they will also be providing coaching clinics, referees and even cheerleaders.

The teams in last year's final, the Manchester Spartans and the Birmingham Bulls, are expected to do well again, but as they are both in the North conference, only one of them will be able to repeat their success. The South conference could well lie between the Brighton B52's and the Northampton Stormbringers but the two London teams, the Olympians and the Ravens, are likely to make it close.

FIXTURES: Tomorrow: Leicester Panthers v Gateshead Senators (Bilton Lane, 7.30pm); Sunday: Birmingham Bulls v Chelmsford Chieftains (Sutton Park, 2.30pm); Chelmsford Chieftains v Thame Chargers (Thame, 2.30pm); Manchester Alisters v Nottingham Hoods (3.00pm); Northampton Stormbringers v Leeds Cougars (Wellingborough, 2.30pm).

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The NFL has come into the British game partly because it is planning its own European

Cricket's most famous twins continue their uncanny progression from such humble beginnings

Bedsers are on the brink of history

By Richard Streeton

THE most famous twins in cricket history add to their achievements tonight when Eric Bedser is due to be elected Surrey president at the club's annual meeting. Three years ago, Alec Bedser filled the same role.

There have been 14 instances of twins playing in English first-class cricket but no other pair have progressed to their county's highest office.

For Eric to scale this particular pinnacle in his own right emphasizes his contribution to Surrey cricket. Inevitably, it is recalled as the twin who missed selection as the twin who missed selection for England, unlike Alec who won 51 Test caps.

Unfortunately for Eric, his career as an off-spinning all-rounder coincided with the period when Laker was with Surrey and England.

The Bedsters have shared such an interwoven existence all their lives that they regard their cricket careers as an entity. Eric, becoming president will bring equal pleasure to both, just as Alec's Test match appearances did. They confirm there has never been an atom of jealousy between them about anything.

Even for identical twins, the Bedsters, who are 72 in July, share an uncanny affinity. One can start writing a letter by hand and the other can finish it without the recipient being aware. They think as one person and, when they talk, one starts a sentence and the other finishes it.

But what about the void which will be left when one dies? "We have talked about this," Eric said. "We realize that the survivor will not expect to live very much longer alone, nor perhaps will he want to."

Eric was born 10 minutes earlier and, at 7lb, was four ounces heavier. They have always lived at Woking with their mother, who died, aged 96, last December. She was virtually the only person who was always able to tell them apart.

Once, when they were babies, even she made a mistake



Oval office: Eric Bedser surveys Surrey County Cricket Club and its surroundings yesterday. He is due to be elected club president this evening

and fed Eric twice before Alec noiselessly protested.

Lunching with them this week, it was easy to spot Eric because a recent Mediterranean holiday had temporarily left him with a better sun tan and a few extra pounds in weight.

The Bedsters always resisted the temptation to hoax anybody during a first-class match. However, in the 1946 Surrey centenary game against Old England, Alec bowled three balls to Woolley before, unnoticed, he changed places at mid-off with Eric, who finished the over. Woolley

remarked to an umpire on "the young man's subtle changes of pace."

The cricket world has always understood that the Bedsters, originally both fast-medium bowlers, tossed a coin to decide who should change his style. It was true that Surrey were well-endowed with seam bowlers, and that a change for one of them seemed sensible.

They cannot recall tossing a coin, however, and give the credit to Alan Peach, a former Surrey player and their first coach. Peach noticed Eric's ability to spin the ball, en-

couraged him in the habit, and it went from there.

No one doubts Eric would have done the double regularly had he played for a weaker county. His best all-round season was 1949, which brought him 1,740 runs, with a top score of 163, and 88 wickets.

The following summer, he had hardly bowled when he was given a chance in the notorious Bradford Test trial, and failed to do himself justice.

The Bedsters were on opposite sides for the first time, and Eric was one of Laker's

victims as he took eight for two on a damaged pitch. It

might not be generally known that Laker gave Eric a single, with a slow full toss, to get off the mark, or his analysis might have been even more remarkable.

As president, Eric will play host to the Queen on August 1, when she opens the Ken Barrington centre, grandstand and other new facilities.

Another highlight during Eric's term of office will be the club's efforts to raise funds for local youth cricket. No Surrey player has benefit this year

and the club has a full-scale campaign planned, with John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and a Surrey supporter, taking an active part.

The Bedsters have come a long way since they first joined the Surrey staff 52 years ago, from what they admit was a humble background. They have retained all the basic and best human virtues instilled by their father, who was a bricklayer.

Eric's coming year as Surrey president seems certain to increase the respect and admiration everyone in cricket holds for them.

British challenge afloat in deluge

From a Special Correspondent, Rome

KITRINA Douglas and Trish Johnson, two British challengers, finished only one stroke off the lead when the European women's golf season opened in the Valecita Classic in cold, heavy rain at Olgiati in Rome yesterday.

Douglas and Johnson, two former Curtis Cup internationals from the West Country, had rounds of 72, one over-par, to trail behind Florence Descaime, of Belgium, and Spain's Tania Abibol of Spain.

Descaime, heeding Leadbetter's advice, chipped in from 10 yards for an eagle at the long fifth hole, then added birdies to the 15th and 17th holes.

Descaime is one of the growing band of professionals working under the guidance of Nick Faldo's coach, David Leadbetter, in Florida. He has encouraged more wrist action in her chipping and taught her the advantages of playing the half shot.

Descaime, heeding Leadbetter's advice, chipped in from 10 yards for an eagle at the long fifth hole, then added birdies to the 15th and 17th holes to match Douglas's 34 over the last nine holes. Abibol, one over after 11 holes, almost matched this. A wedge approach to 12 feet brought a birdie at the 15th for an inward run of 35 and a 71.

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FOOTBALL

Gullit so central to The Netherlands and Italians alike

From David Miller, Munich

RUUD Gullit is at the centre of controversy, not merely about whether he will play in the European Cup final in Vienna next month for AC Milan, and then in the World Cup finals for The Netherlands, but over his involvement in the dispute surrounding the management of the Dutch team.

Taking these issues in reverse order, the uncertainty on who will be at the helm of the European champions when they open their World Cup group which includes England, the Republic of Ireland and Egypt, is the most complicated.

Teun Libregts, at present involved in a legal dispute on his contract with the Dutch federation over his dismissal following qualification, fell foul of a dressing room revolt led by Gullit on two counts: the players thought him tactically naive, and he allegedly made disparaging remarks about coloured players.

Frank Rijkaard was shamefully heckled with racist chants by a hard-right section of the Bayern crowd here — "The Shed" end of the Olympic Stadium — every time he touched the ball, during Milan's 2-1 defeat and victory by the away goal on Wednesday night. Gullit and Rijkaard did not take kindly to the suggestion, made by Libregts during the qualifying competition, that coloured players were lazy, especially in winter. Milan among the squad, already in veiled existence, grew around Gullit.

The question postponed repeatedly by the Dutch FA, now is whether Leo Beenhakker or Johan Cruyff should replace Libregts. A further complication in the background lies in Rinus Mi-

Gullit is fresh enough, and

More Italian glory in the UEFA Cup

By Louise Taylor

THE UEFA Cup is guaranteed pride of place in an Italian Trophy cabinet, for the second year running next month. Napoli's successors will be either Fiorentina or Juventus who contest the final, over two legs, on May 2 and May 16.

Fiorentina had qualified on Tuesday by completing their victory by the away goal over Werder Bremen and on Wednesday it was the turn of Juventus to dispose of further West German opposition, from Cologne, in their semi-final. After winning 1-0 in the first leg in Germany, Fiorentina triumphed via a tense 0-0 draw at home.

Juventus, who had won the first leg 3-2 in Turin, left slightly more to spare, triumphing 1-0 in Cologne against a side without Pizzi, their leading scorer who was suspended. No sooner

had he finished on the losing side than Thomas Haessler, the Cologne midfield player, was running the winners in an \$8.8 million (approximately £5,300,000) transfer.

Agged 23, Haessler has signed a four year contract involving a \$60,000 a month salary, plus a villa and the sports car of his choice. He now becomes the world's third most expensive footballer behind Ruud Gullit and Diego Maradona.

Such internationals as Baggio, Kubis and Dunga have failed to prevent Fiorentina from struggling in the Italian first division this season but Francesco Graziani, the club's newly recruited coach, said: "A UEFA Cup final victory against our traditional rivals Juventus can salvage our season."

Abuse contributes to Coyle departure

By George Ace

RAY Coyle, the most successful manager in the history of Irish football, resigned from Linfield yesterday.

His departure from Windsor Park marks the end of an era. After close to 15 years at the helm, Coyle said: "I was under no pressure from my board. My decision to resign was prompted by several factors and my departure from the club was most amicable."

The chairman accepted my view that it was in the best interests of the club for me to move on."

Coyle joined Linfield from Grimsby Town in November, 1975, with no previous managerial experience. But he brought to football management the same aggressive spirit and competitive urge that was the hallmark of a successful career as a player which saw him win five caps for Northern Ireland.

"I had a tatty start," Coyle said. "It took me 18 months to win my first trophy, the County



Coyle: family concern

Anton shield. But the parts then started to fit and I am very proud that I was player when Linfield achieved a league and cup double in 1978."

For six months Coyle has been the recipient of some disgruntled criticism above by a vociferous minority of the

club, manager of the famous team of 1974 and of the European victory in Munich two years ago. The current first team squad want Cruyff, by a reputed majority of some eight to five, but Michels, technical director of the Dutch FA, does not.

In spite of the supposed sympathetic relationship between manager and captain in 1974 — when Cruyff spoiled an illustrious career by inadequate leadership during a losing final against West Germany — Michels is said now to regard Cruyff as an indifferent coach with Barcelona, yet believes that Cruyff's appointment with the Dutch team would restrict his (Michels's) tactical influence in Italy. Michels is a general, calculating but not overrated, leading from behind.

Quite apart from the fact that the Dutch FA are reluctant to pay what Cruyff is expected to demand for six weeks' work, the truth of the matter seems to be that Beenhakker will be given the task. Before moving to Real Madrid four years ago and winning three successive Spanish championships, Beenhakker had been coach and temporary manager with the national team.

However, Beenhakker's

present club, Ajax, are said to be unhappy about their manager having no holiday for the second consecutive summer, training for the club season begins two weeks after the World Cup finals. They want their manager, if not their international players, to be fresh in mind and spirit — to be in the mood for the start of the new Italian league season. Involvement in the World Cup could jeopardize this.

The Netherlands, as com-

promise compensation are suggesting, I understand from good sources, that Gullit could be used as a tactical substitute, kept on the bench until such time in any match that his presence is imperative. That could, of course, be a physical risk against defensive, and often unscrupulous, opposition such as Uruguay, Italy, Argentina, South Korea and... well, these days, almost anyone else.

Both events this summer

will be the less attractive without Gullit. He adds a delicious dimension of unpredictability to either side. On Wednesday night, Milan, even without him, were still good enough to deserve to reach the final and defend the title on the strength of a goal 11 minutes into extra time by Borgonovo, a second half substitute in midfield for Stroppa. Yet van Basten, without the prompting from a wandering Gullit, is not the same menace.

Such national views had no place, though, in the French dressing room afterwards, when all that mattered was that they had been cheated out of their first European final.

Waddle, Marseilles' England wing, took it as much to heart as any Frenchman. He reckons the referee's decision should no longer be final.

"There's so much money and prestige riding on European cups and the World Cup that it's far too important to leave vital decisions to the referee and the linesmen," he said.

While surpassing all expectation in a defensive sense, Marseilles failed to reach the level of performance they are capable of and achieved an exhilarating first leg. That their goal should survive intact for so long, given that Canevari in goal was a nervous wreck throughout, was extraordinary.

Yet one cannot help feeling that Marseilles would have put up a more spirited and stylish performance against AC Milan than Beenhakker seem capable of. Perhaps it was just as well that the Portuguese celebrated so ecstatically on Wednesday night.

There is the prospect of an outstanding final, in tactics and performance, between this technically gifted Milan side, who are thinking during every split-second of the game, and a Benfica side that is inspired by the fluidity of its Brazilian players.

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There must be better way

SPORT

Liverpool receive lift for Europe return

From Peter Ball
Valletta, Malta

LENNART Johansson, the new president of the European Football Union (UEFA), cleared the way yesterday for Liverpool to return to European competition next season at the same time as the other English clubs.

"Europe needs English clubs in our competitions, and they need to come back into Europe," Johansson, who had been nominated for the presidency by the Football Association, said soon after the election at the twentieth congress here yesterday.

"I cannot see the problems being solved by continuing isolation. The ban has been long enough and, if the FA make an application for Liverpool to return next season, I could hardly see a reason to refuse."

In the aftermath of the Heysel disaster, when the ban

was first applied, Liverpool were given an extra three years to wait once English clubs returned.

There have been several suggestions that the punishment would be cut to one year but Johansson dismissed even that reduction. "That can be changed," he said.

This startling development took even the FA by surprise. But after hasty consultation with the chairman, Bert Millichip, Graham Kelly, the chief executive, confirmed that, if UEFA wished it, the FA saw no objection.

"There is no reason in our view to delay Liverpool's application any longer than the general application," Kelly said. "If the discussions between the government and the new UEFA president are satisfactory, and Liverpool are in one of the three qualifying places, we will ask UEFA to consider them."

PETER Robinson, Liverpool's chief executive, welcomed yesterday's news (Ian Ross writes). "If this is true, then obviously we are very, very pleased indeed," he said. "If this club was to be allowed to return to European football, it would be a great morale-booster."

"We are fully aware, however, that everything will now hinge on the behaviour of English supporters during this summer's World Cup finals in Italy. If there was to be trouble in Italy, then obviously our chances of returning would recede quite dramatically."

"We are fully aware that both our supporters and our players have missed

the involvement with top-class European football. In many respects, it had become a way of life in Liverpool."

"It will also be a tremendous boost in purely financial terms. I would estimate that we have lost upwards of £500,000 per season during the course of our ban."

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, was also delighted at the news. "It is a major boost for ourselves and Crystal Palace to be fighting for a place in next season's Cup Winners' Cup."

"But the most important thing is that the door is open again, and that English clubs are perhaps going to be welcomed

back."

Doug Ellis, the chairman of Aston Villa, yesterday appealed to supporters in general not to undermine the imminent uplifting of the UEFA ban.

Ellis, a member of the League management committee, is anxious that supporters are careful to safeguard the return to Europe by their conduct during the final domestic games and in Italy for the World Cup.

"For heaven's sake, supporters who go to Italy must remember they are English and as much a part of the scene as the England players," Ellis said. "We must not spoil it for ourselves again."

Football Spectators Act is up and running; that will be able to report good progress in the talks he has had with the Italian government on submitting names of offenders and we hope he will be able to point to the initiatives the FA have taken with the travel club."

If Moynihan fulfills these wishes, it is likely that will be enough to satisfy the UEFA president.

The Swede, who is even

rumoured to support Arsenal, is a regular visitor to London and a great friend of English football. The importance of his election for the English cause cannot be overstated.

Such an encouraging development had scarcely seemed likely earlier in the day. In a long speech, the retiring president, Jacques Georges, left his listeners in no doubt that his interpretation of UEFA's requirements from the British

Government were more stringent than those of his successor.

"It is important to know what the British government will do," Georges said. "Will they allow hooligans who are on file to take the ferry? That is insatiable. The new UEFA government will have to go to London to contact all the authorities and say: 'What are you doing? Will you take measures to guarantee safety for spectators?'

"If the president can feel assured, then my proposal that English clubs may be readmitted can go ahead. Until then, it would be suicide to allow them back without guarantees."

The plain expressions on the faces of the English delegation said everything that needed revealing at that stage. The election of Johansson rapidly changed their mood.

Errant reporters will stand trial at football court

By John Goodbody

FOOTBALL reporters could be barred from attending post-match press conferences at league clubs next season if they are found guilty by a disciplinary panel of violating an agreed code of practice a second time after a warning.

In the most revolutionary move of its 42-year history, the Football Writers' Association (FWA) has also agreed with the Football League that for an experimental 12-month period, managers, or an acceptable club representative, plus at least two players from each team must go to the formal conference, which can only be attended by FWA members.

Members of the Press, who are not FWA members, or who are suspended or lose their membership of the association, will be forced to seek their interviews independently.

The FWA has agreed with the league that, if it accepts that a complaint from a league club about a journalist's work should be investigated, a panel under the chairmanship of Denis Howell, the former Sports Minister, will be convened. It will consist of two FWA members, two representatives from the Football League and one representative from both the Football League Executive Staff Association and the Professional Footballers' Association.

If the panel finds the complaint justified it will have the

power to warn a journalist. For a second offence, the journalist's FWA membership could be withdrawn and for a third, he or she could be expelled from the association.

Among the reasons why a complaint could be upheld are: a lack of truth or invention in an article; a deliberate misquotation; and a failure to make full and proper efforts to corroborate information received as sheer hearsay.

The panel will also consider complaints from FWA members against managers over allegations of lying and, if proved, a manager could be censured. It is hoped that tape recordings will be kept of all post-match interviews.

The FWA emphasises that the body is open to all journalists for an annual subscription of £20, and its sole object is to improve standards of journalism and the status of football reporters, who for many years have been obliged to have hurried interviews with managers and players outside dressing rooms and in car parks.

There are 230 members of the association. The criterion for membership is that the individual must earn two-thirds of his or her income by writing about the game. Associate membership, which will confer the same privileges and penalties on the holder for press conferences next season as a full member, is open to TV and radio broadcasters

and other journalists who do not earn two-thirds of their income from covering the game.

The majority of journalists reporting the game are FWA members. In the course of two years of negotiations with the league, the association has been keen to improve its image and secure the cooperation of the game's authorities by obliging officials and players to attend press conferences, as is commonplace in other sports.

In tennis, a professional player is obliged to be interviewed by the media within 30 minutes of the end of the match unless injured or physically unable to be present. Refusal renders the player liable to a fine of \$1,000.

In golf, a player is expected to attend a press conference and the PGA European Tour regulations state that the requirement for players to give full cooperation to the press "needs no underlining". However, in neither sport are there any sanctions on journalists.

A spokesman for the National Union of Journalists said yesterday: "We are pleased to see journalists working under a code of practice that seeks to establish high standards in football reporting."

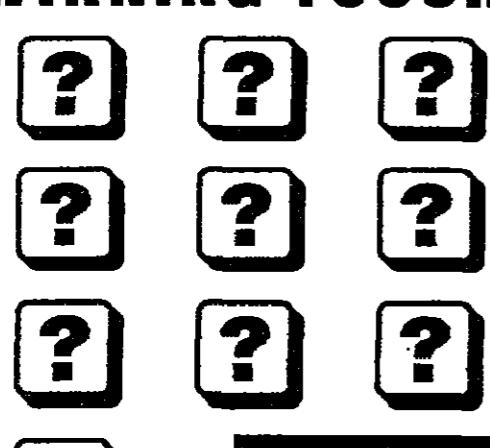
However, he said two things worried the union. One was whether some reporters covering football games who are not members of the association would be barred from press conferences. "It is an important principle of journalism that press conferences should be open to all bona fide journalists who want to cover them."

The NUI was also worried about the disputes procedure because it appeared to be set up with a majority of administrators from the game rather than journalists to decide whether there had been a breach of the code of conduct.

He said: "Journalists work under their own code of conduct under which they are subject to their union and their employer. We would not be happy if a football reporter could have his livelihood taken away by a body largely composed of administrators of the game that he is writing about."

However, the FWA emphasized that it is setting up an appeals procedure and that individuals would not endanger their livelihood because they could still report games and interview officials and players independently.

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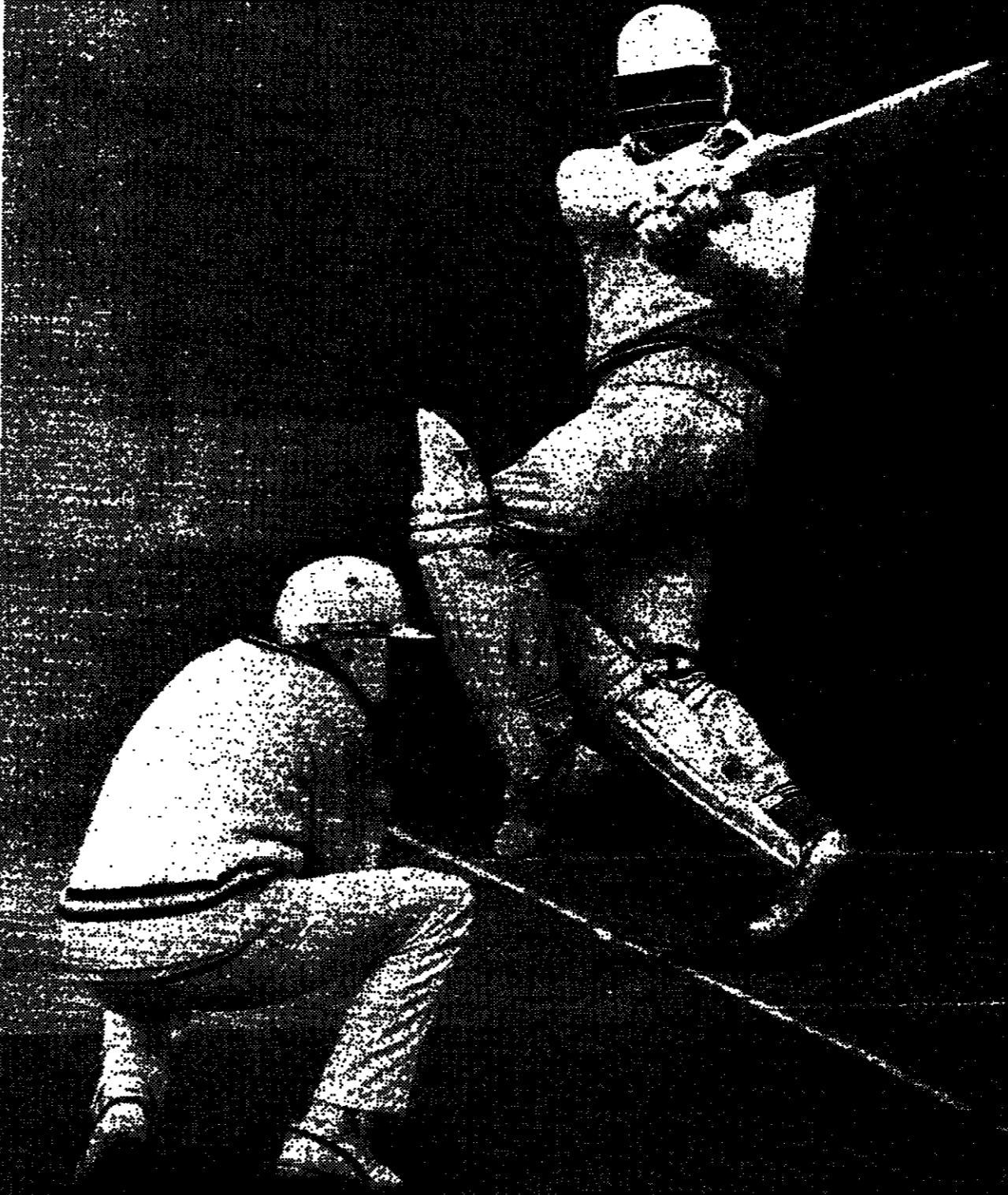
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Botham gets back into the swing

GRAHAM MORRIS



Take that: Botham strikes a typical blow to the boundary yesterday for Worcestershire against MCC at Lord's

Hailstorm brings welcome relief

By John Woodcock

LORD'S: Worcestershire, with three first innings wickets in hand, are 96 runs behind MCC

IN THE 28.1 overs that were bowled between the showers at Lord's yesterday, Worcestershire took their first innings from 181 for three to 289 for seven. It was, to be honest, a merciful release when a hailstorm, accompanied by thunder and lightning, turned the ground into a snowscape and caused play to be abandoned soon after five o'clock.

Although he batted for only 40 minutes, much the most interesting and challenging cricket came when Botham was in. There was really no noticeable difference from the way he played yesterday and

how he might have done, say, 10 years ago. He skinned Watkin over mid-off's head for four and then pulled him for six, admittedly over the tiny Tavern boundary.

The trouble was, as kept happening last year when he made a start, he got out rather than going on.

Had he not been in such useful form, the chances are that he would have missed the ball from Cowans that did for him — it left him quite sharply — instead of edging it to Hogg. However, at No. 4 in the order, where he is to start the season, Botham will not want for opportunities to embarrass the selectors.

In making 72, most of them

on Wednesday evening, Botham was never quite at his best,

surviving several close calls for leg-byes and only occasionally producing something beyond the ordinary mortal.

All the same, it took a blinding catch to get rid of him — by Parker at second slip: off the endlessly willing but often wayward Lawrence.

In his 25.1 overs, Lawrence has bowled 27 no-balls. If that is part carelessness, it points, too, to some lack of coordination. I wonder whether he has ever visited a long jump coach: they have sorted fast bowlers out before now who had problems with their run-up.

The most successful of MCC's bowler was Watkin, whose 94 wickets put him at the very top of the list in 1989. He is one of those for whom

the balls being used this year, with their much less prominent seams, are expected to make life a good deal harder.

But in this match, even on an excellent pitch, he has not suffered as much as he no doubt will when it gets warmer and drier. Nor, for that matter, did Botham when he was bowled.

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